EVENING KC

オールラウンダー廻

1

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EVENING
KC264

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

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遠藤浩輝

EVENING KC　講談社

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ALL ROUNDER MEGURU
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遠藤浩輝
HIROKI ENDO

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 1
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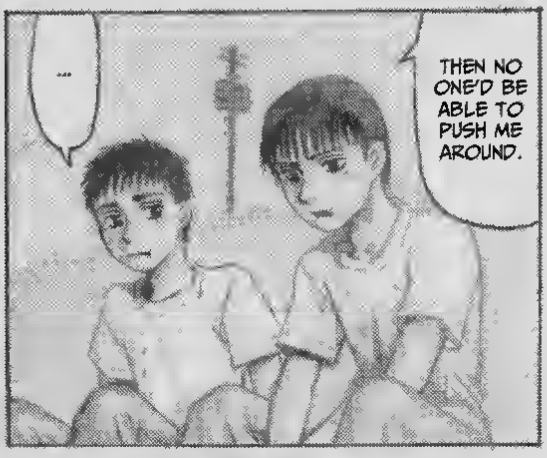
**A type of humorous/vulgar dance done to traditional music*

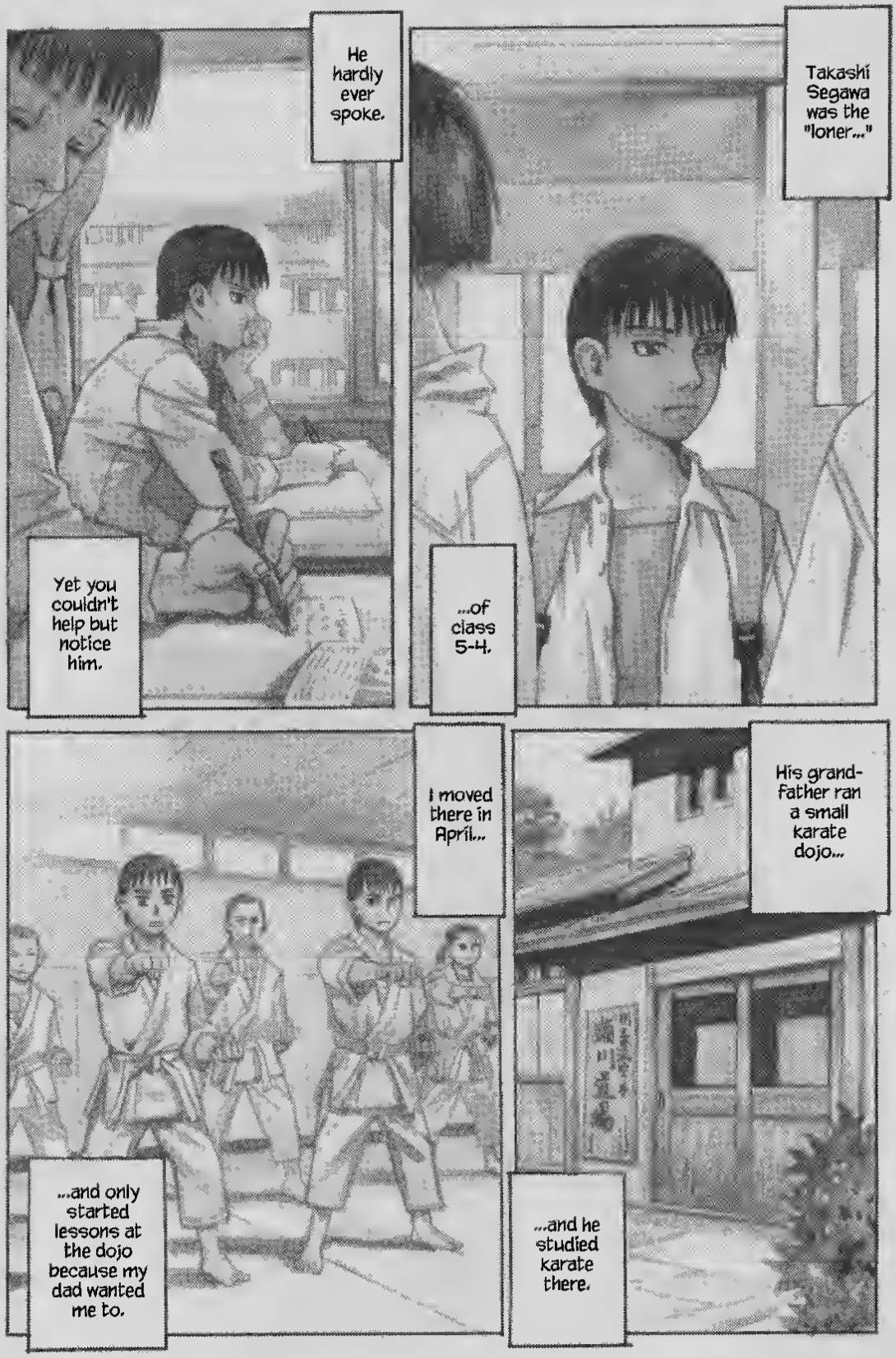
I WANNA BE STRONGER.

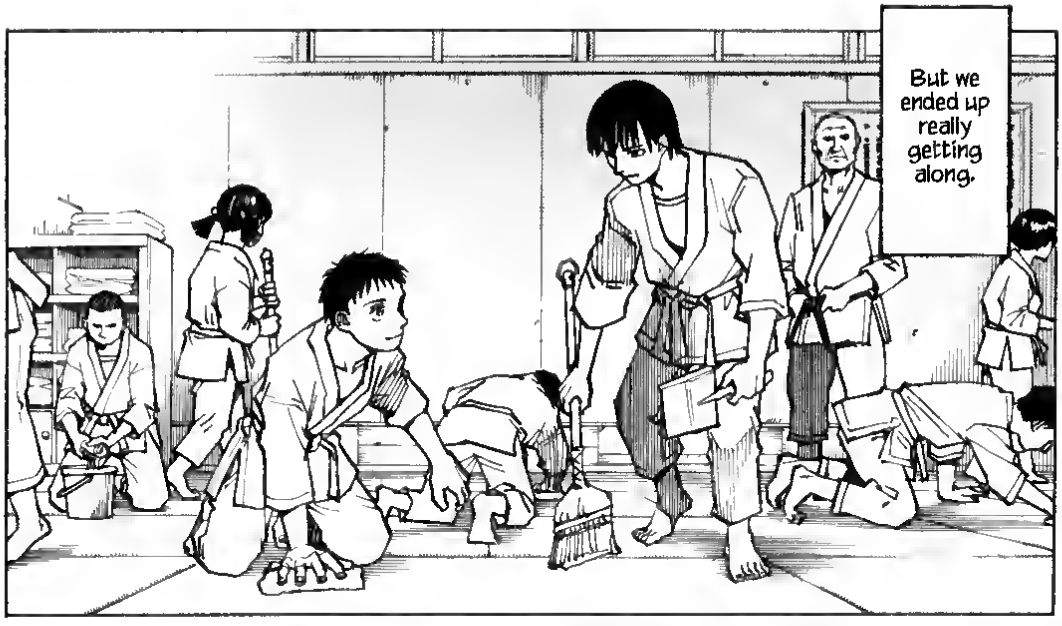
...
...A GUN'D MAKE YOU EVEN STRONGER ?

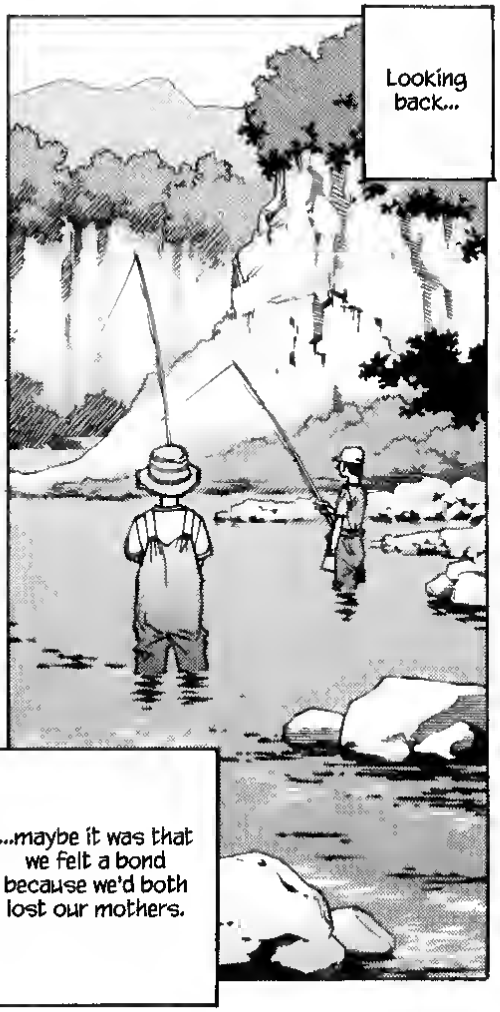

...
THEN NO ONE'D BE ABLE TO PUSH ME AROUND.

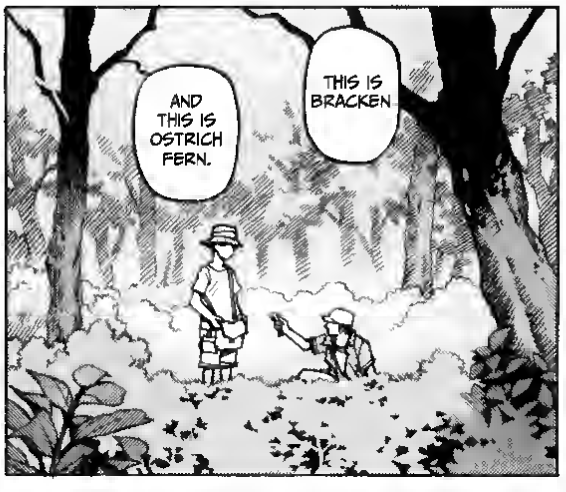
DON'T YOU THINK...
BUT...

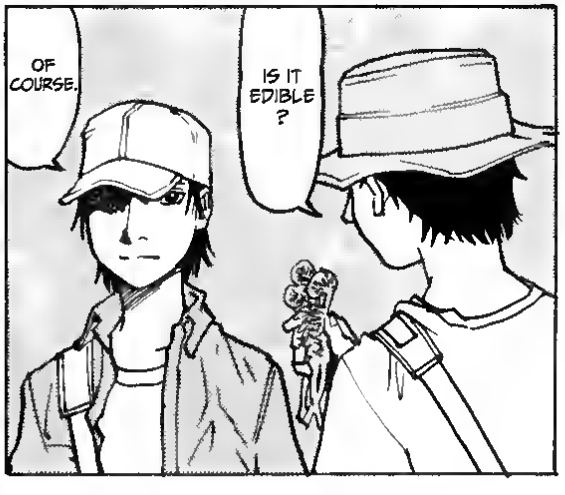
Chapter 1 | Takashi Segawa


He hardly ever spoke.
Takashi Segawa was the "loner..."
Yet you couldn't help but notice him.
...of class 5-4.
I moved there in April...
His grandfather ran a small karate dojo...
...and only started lessons at the dojo because my dad wanted me to.
...and he studied karate there.



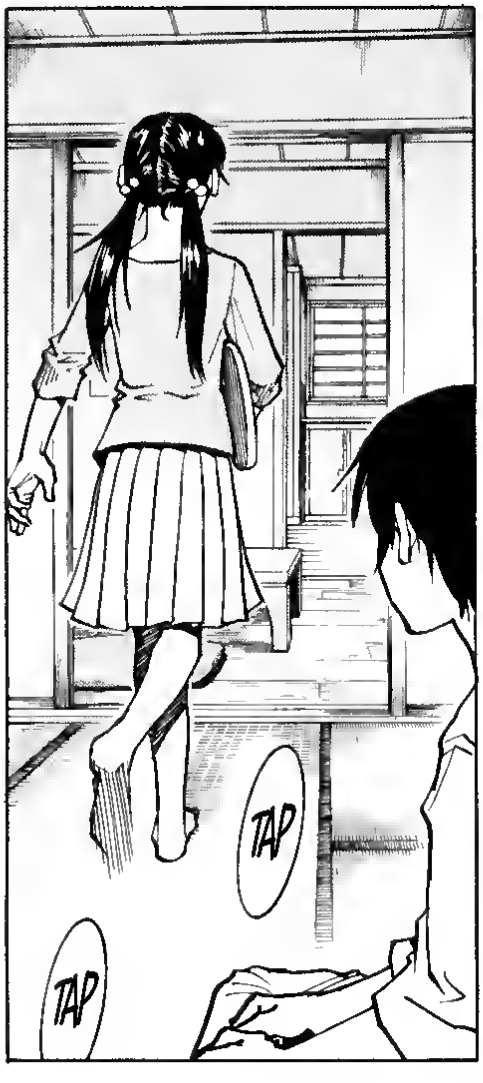


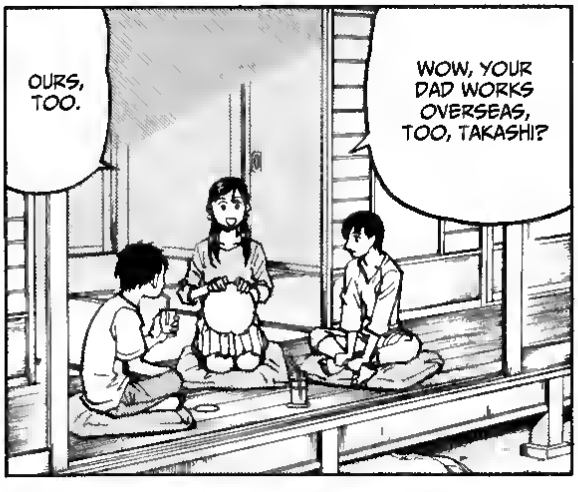


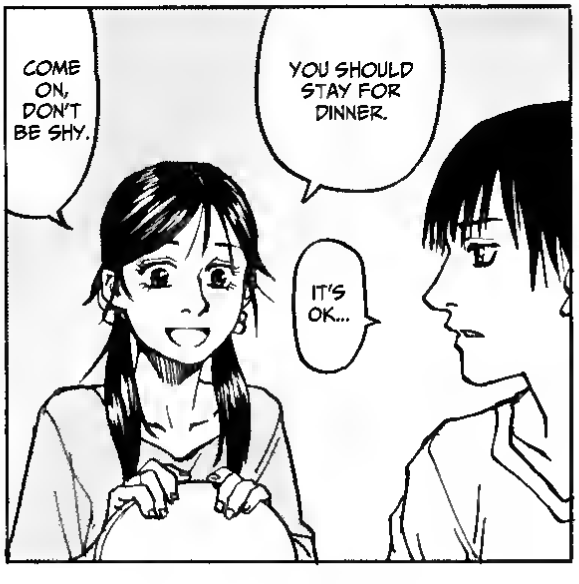


...maybe it was that we felt a bond because we'd both lost our mothers.

When my mom died...
...my dad left me and my sister with my grandma because he was overseas a lot for work.

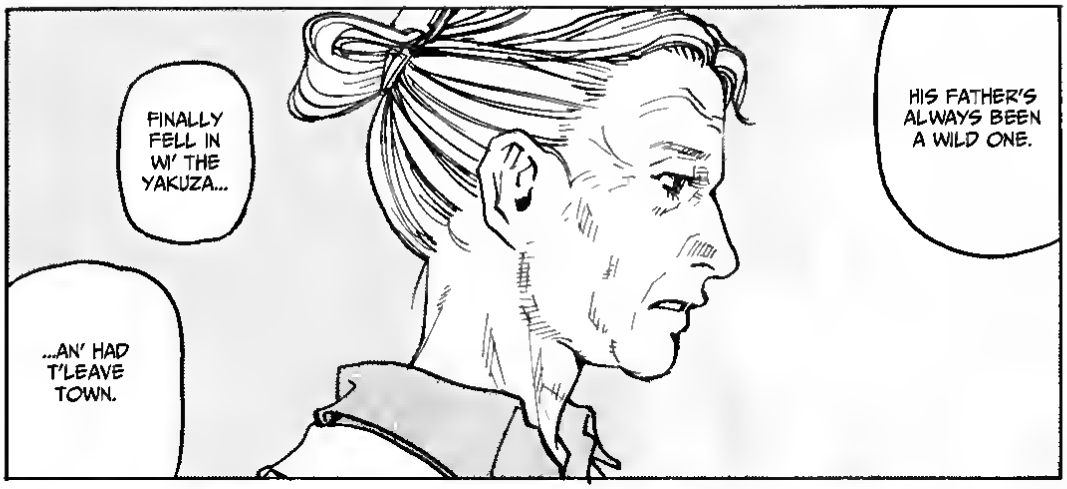

TAP
TAP

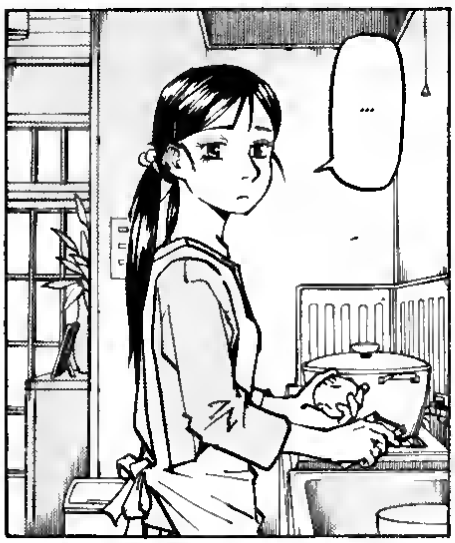

WOW, YOUR DAD WORKS OVERSEAS, TOO, TAKASHI?
OURS, TOO.


YOU SHOULD STAY FOR DINNER.
COME ON, DON'T BE SHY.
IT'S OK...

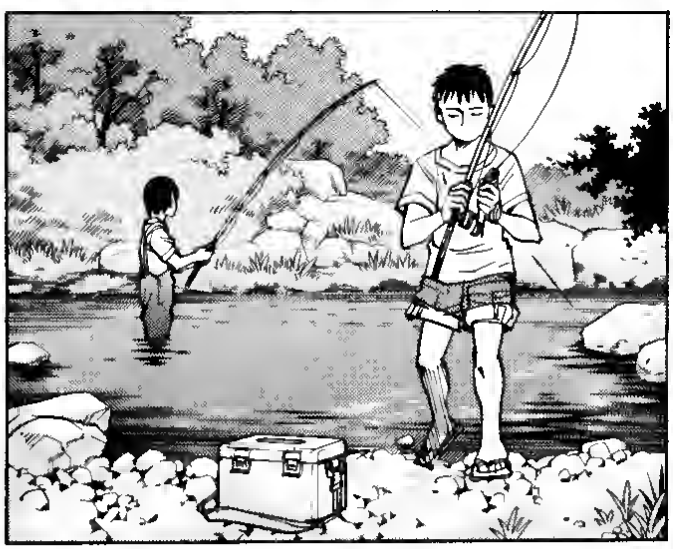
AT MY HOUSE IT'S JUST ME AND MY GRANDPA.
I JUST THINK MY SISTER TALKS TOO MUCH.
YEAH ?
YOUR HOUSE IS SO CHEERY.
HE'S LYIN' 'BOUT HIS FATHER BEIN' OVERSEAS.
TCK
GRANDMA, THAT'S NOT NICE...
SEND HIM ON HOME.
HOW LONG'S THAT BOY GOIN' T'BE HERE*?

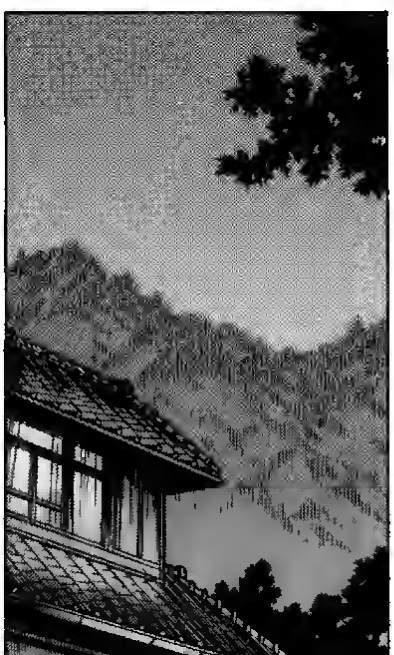
*MEGURU'S GRANDMOTHER SPEAKS WITH A REGIONAL ACCENT.

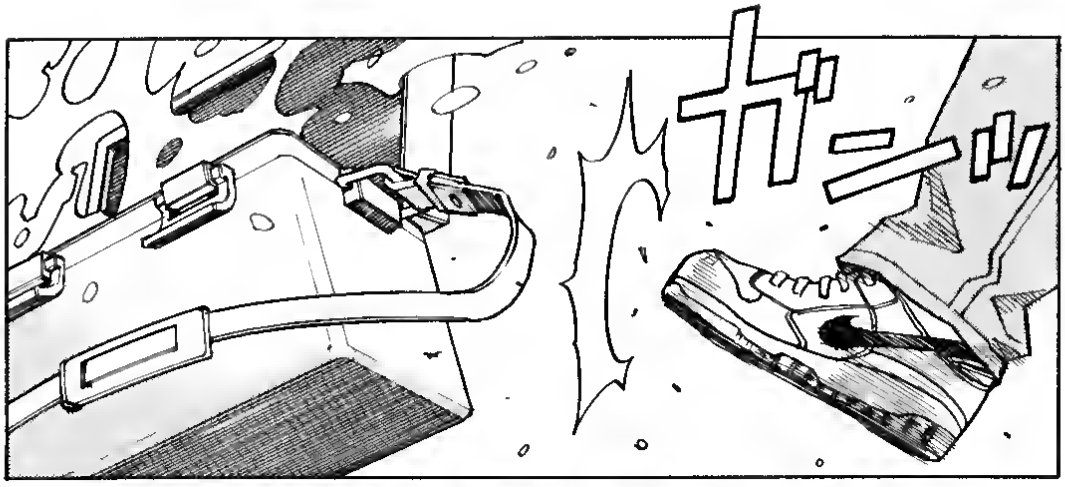

HIS FATHER'S ALWAYS BEEN A WILD ONE.
FINALLY FELL IN W/ THE YAKUZA...
...AN' HAD T'LEAVE TOWN.


...

THEN HIS WIFE DONE RAN OFF ON HIM...
THOUGH THAT GIRL ALWAYS HAD MEN COMIN' AN' GOIN' EVEN BEFORE...



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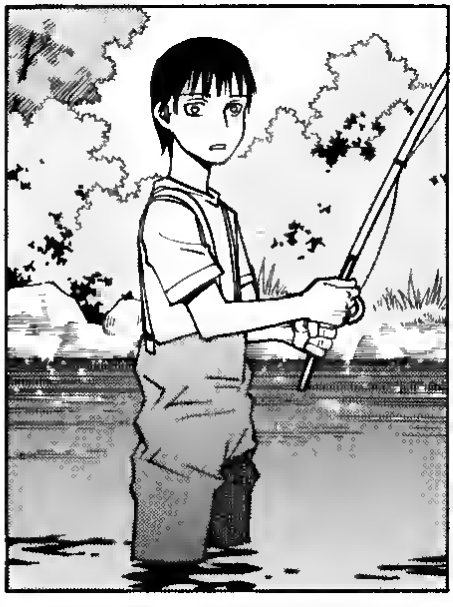
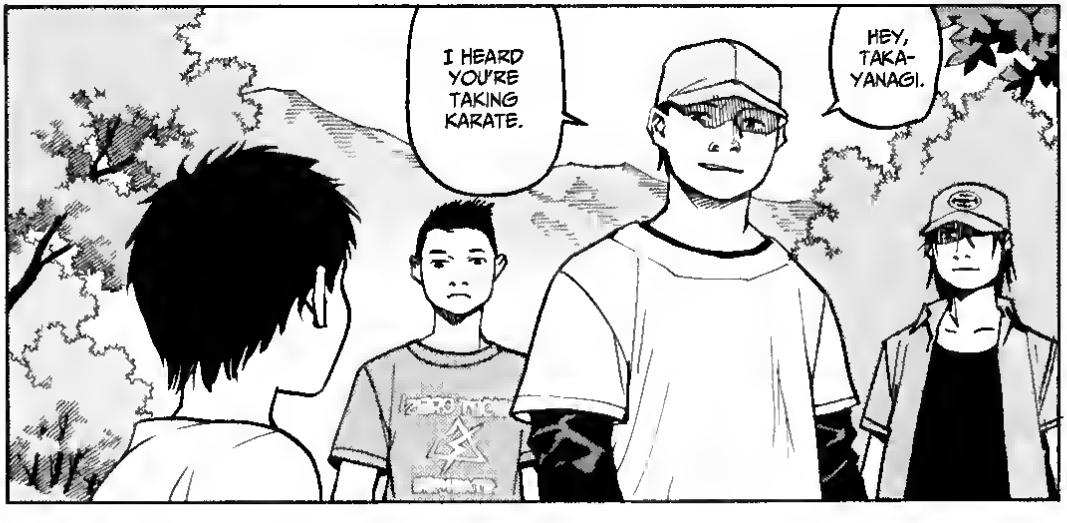
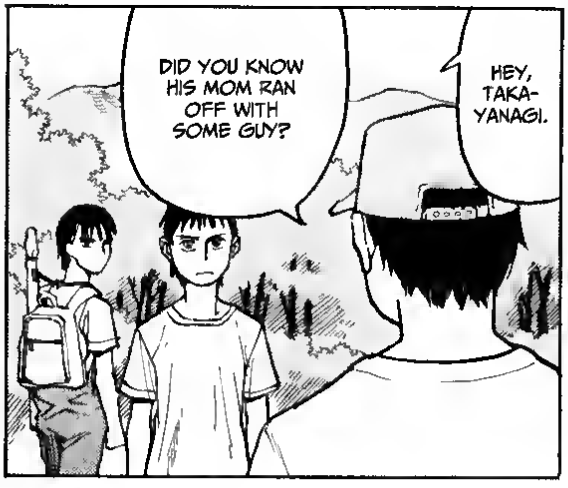


THUNK


I HEARD YOU'RE TAKING KARATE.
HEY, TAKA-YANAGI.

But we were forbidden to use karate outside of the dojo.
LET'S GO.

Sometimes older boys...
...would try to pick a fight with me...


HEY, TAKAYANAGI.
DID YOU KNOW HIS MOM RAN OFF WITH SOME GUY?

OH YEAH?!

...A LOT OF RUMORS ABOUT YOUR MOM.
I'VE HEARD...
RIGHT, SEGAWA?

YOU'VE BOTH GOT WHORES FOR MOMS.
NO WONDER YOU TWO ARE FRIENDS.
WHAT,
YOU DON'T HAVE A MOM, EITHER, TAKAYANAGI?
My body moved on its own.

...experienced fighting will beat out...
The truth is...
Especially when the other guys are older.
...half-assed karate any time.

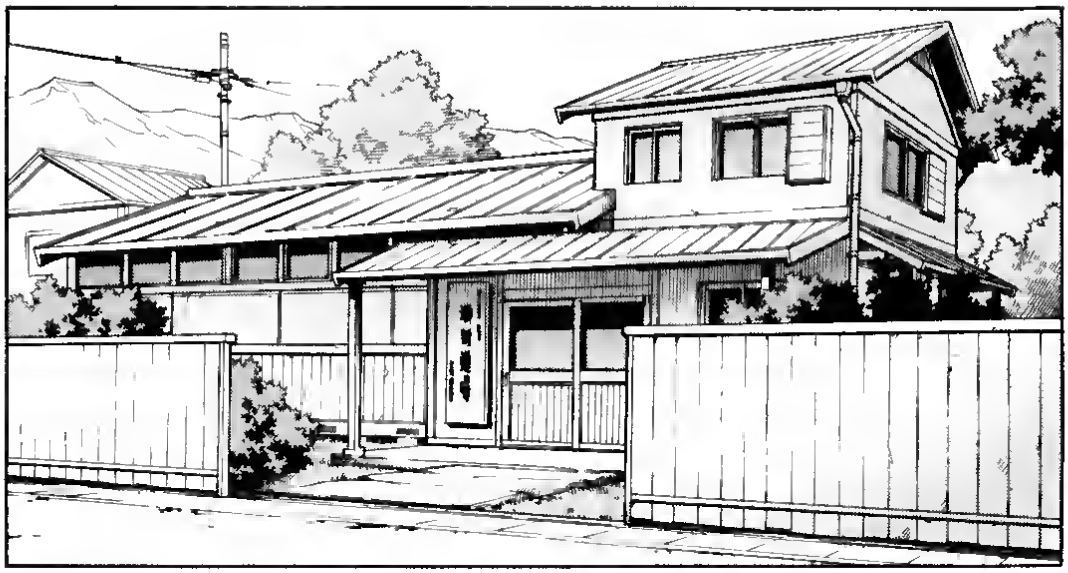
I WANNA BE STRONGER.
THEN NO ONE'D BE ABLE TO PUSH ME AROUND.
...
I heard somewhere that real strength lies in money and power.
I'M TELLING YOU, A GUN'D BE EVEN STRONGER.
SHUT UP.
But out here that had no bearing on things.
In this town your only choice was between being a farmer or a civil servant.

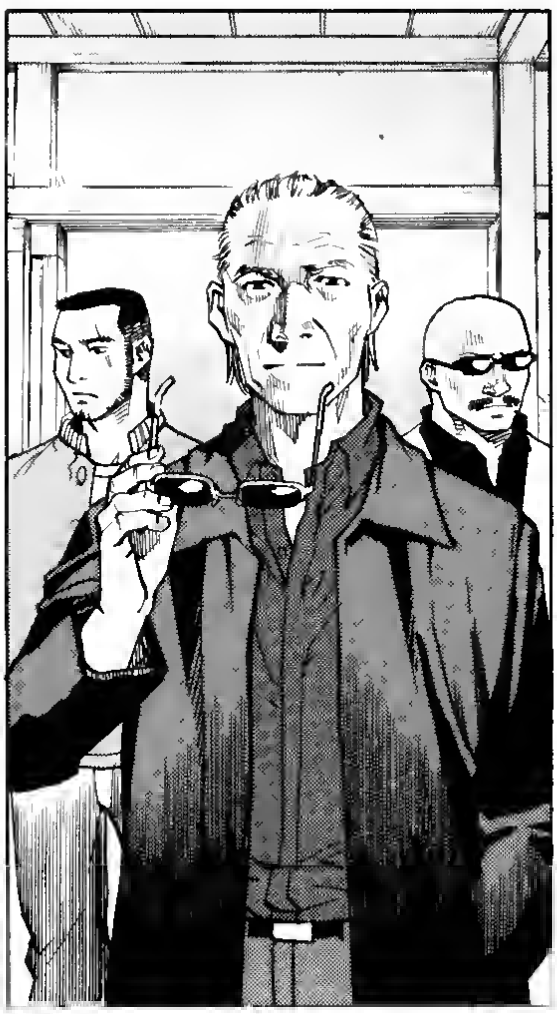
REVENGE IS NOT ALLOWED.
THAT IS TRUE STRENGTH.
I didn't understand what he meant.
...THOSE BOYS WILL EVENTUALLY RESPECT.
BECOME SOME-ONE...

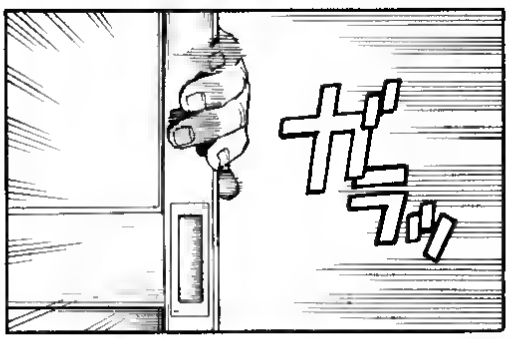
Three months later, I was in a tournament in a big city.
The judge ruled against me in the first round.
IT WAS JUST BAD LUCK GETTING PITTED AGAINST SOMEONE SO STRONG.
HOW...?
Takashi lost his first fight, too, to a kid who'd won the previous tournament.
He cried.
...WHEN YOU LOST, TOO?
HOW CAN YOU SMILE...

He was way harder...

...on himself for losing than I was.






ガラッ

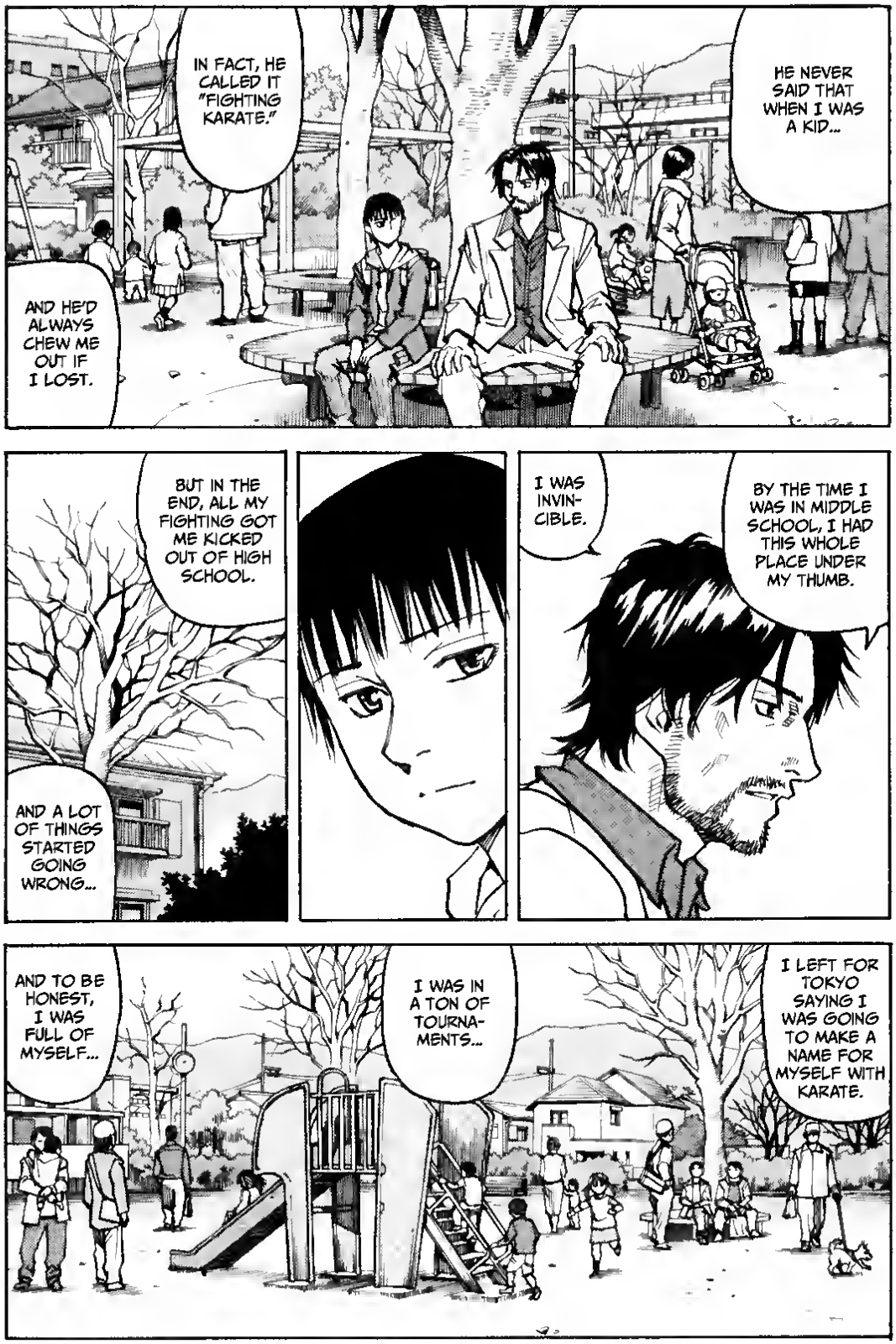
I WON'T BE LONG.
NOW, NOW.
NO VISITORS ALLOWED!
...WILL YOU GIVE ME A CALL?
IF YOU SEE HIM...
...IS YOUR SON, ISN'T HE...?
KOICHI SEGAWA ...
I KNOW.
YES.
I DISINHERITED HIM YEARS AGO!
BUT JUST IN CASE.

LEAVE HIM ALONE!
SON, IF YOU EVER--
GET OUT OF HERE!
KEEP AN EYE ON THAT KID.
YES, SIR?
HEY.

WHERE'S GRANDPA?!
GRAND-PA?
...he began wandering off.
As my grand-father's dementia pro-gressed...
...he fell off a bridge in the middle of the night and died.
A week later...

I'LL SEE YOU OFF.
OK.
And just before I started 6th grade...
...we had to move again.
!
TAKASHI ...

...
YOU GOT A MINUTE?
OH, NO PROB-LEM.
SORRY, MEGURU ...
YEAH. BUT HE SAID NOT TO USE IT FOR FIGHTING.
YOUR GRANDPA TEACHING YOU KARATE?


HE NEVER SAID THAT WHEN I WAS A KID...
IN FACT, HE CALLED IT "FIGHTING KARATE."
AND HE'D ALWAYS CHEW ME OUT IF I LOST.
BY THE TIME I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I HAD THIS WHOLE PLACE UNDER MY THUMB.
I WAS INVIN-CIBLE.
BUT IN THE END, ALL MY FIGHTING GOT ME KICKED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.
AND A LOT OF THINGS STARTED GOING WRONG...
I LEFT FOR TOKYO SAYING I WAS GOING TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF WITH KARATE.
I WAS IN A TON OF TOURNA-MENTS...
AND TO BE HONEST, I WAS FULL OF MYSELF...

TAKA-SHI,
DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES I DID.
THEN I GOT INJURED...
NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS IN THE YAKUZA...
BUT I COULDN'T EVEN DO THAT RIGHT.
THEN MY WIFE RAN OUT ON ME...
...
...
SEE YA.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.

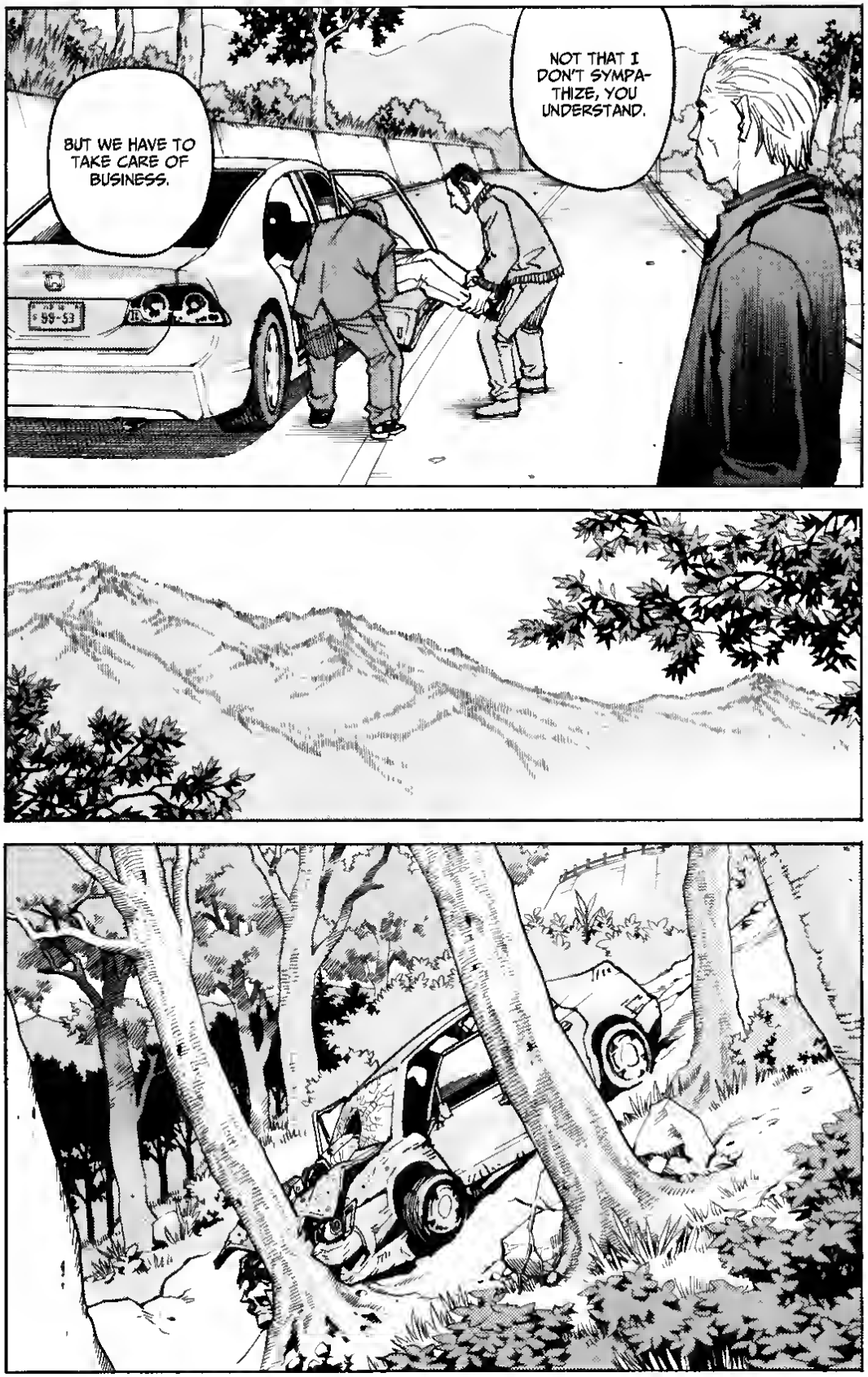
ト
ル

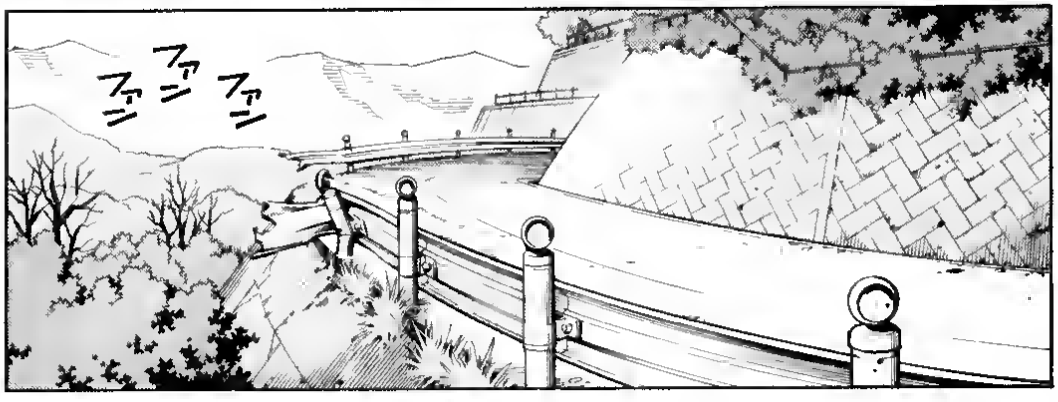
!
SHIT

YOU...

LONG TIME NO SEE, KOICHI...

->UNNT<-
AND THEN YOUR WOMAN RAN AWAY WITH THE MONEY...
BUT STEALING A HUNDRED MILLION YEN IS A LITTLE MUCH...
I CAN UNDERSTAND WANTING TO START OVER.
ドゥ
THUD
...


BUT WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.
NOT THAT I DON'T SYMPA-THIZE, YOU UNDERSTAND.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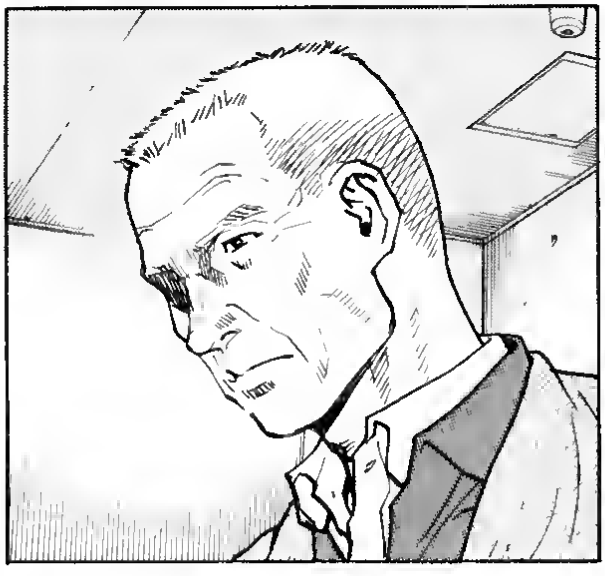
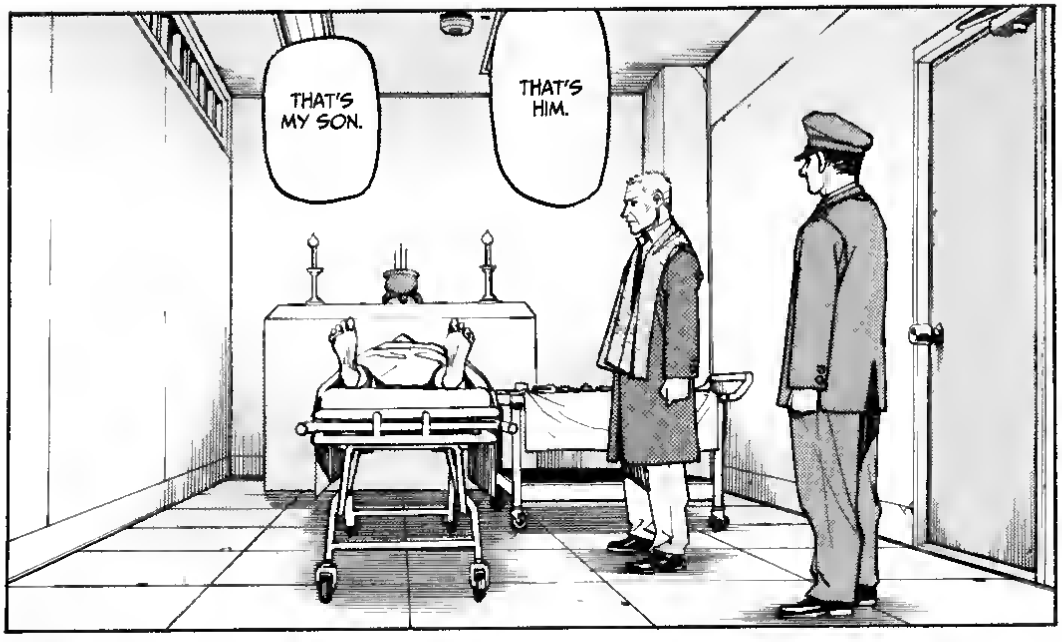
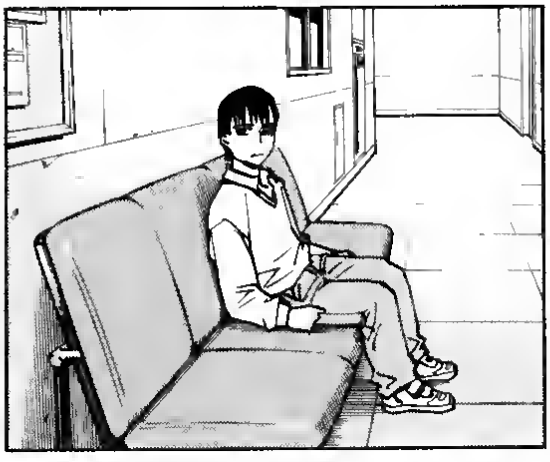
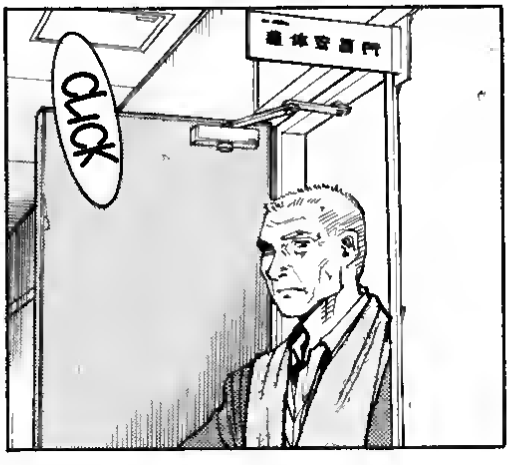
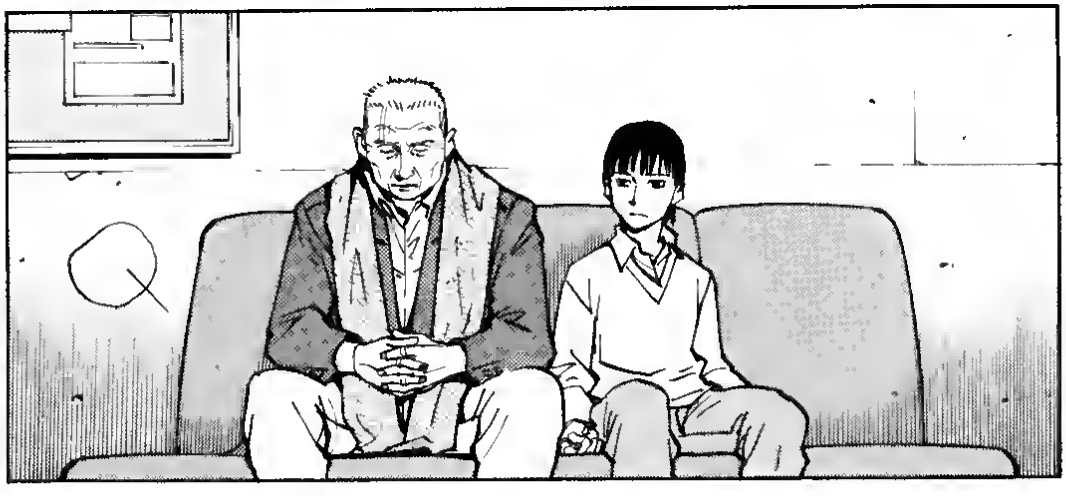



THAT'S MY SON.
THAT'S HIM.

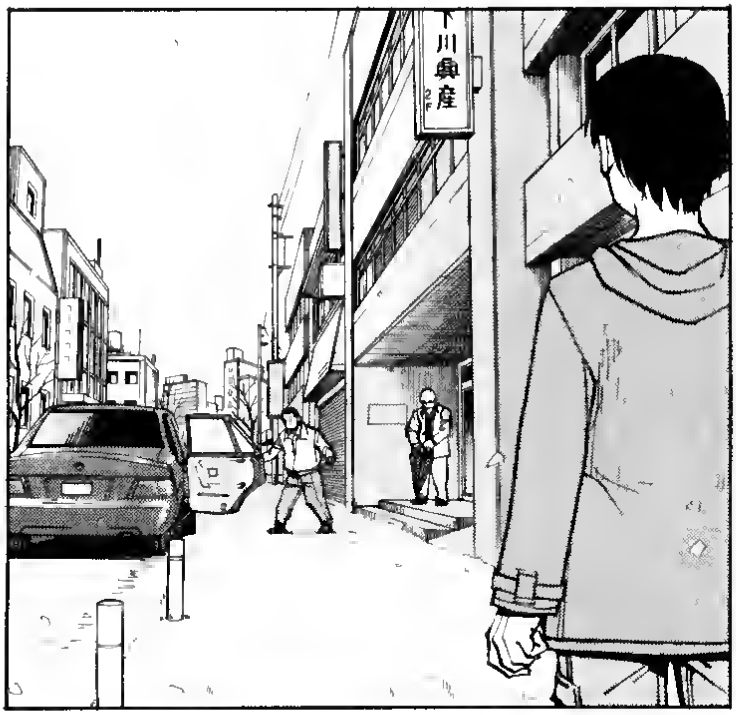


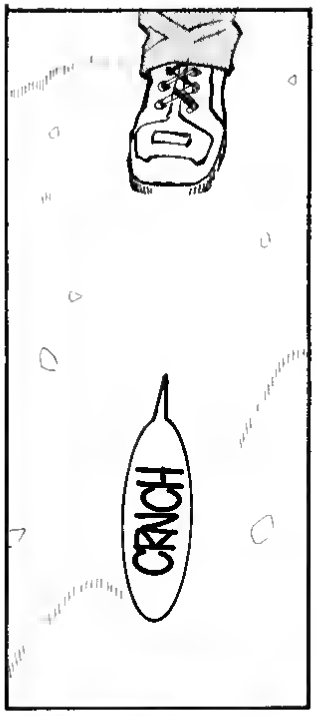

CLICK

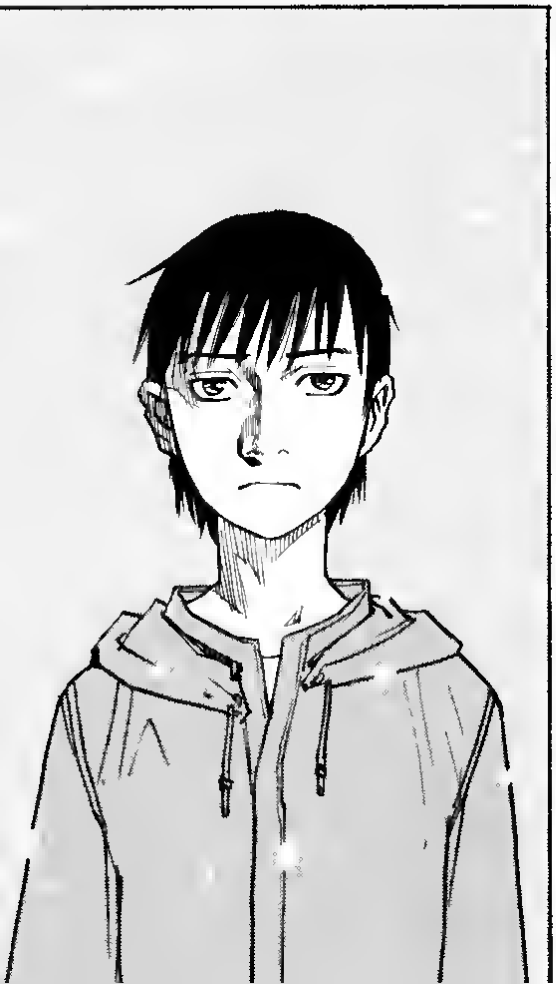


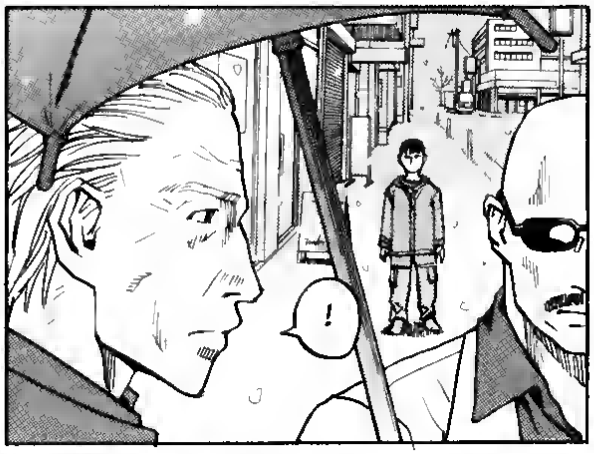
YES.
ARE YOU HEADING BACK TO TOKYO TOMORROW ?
WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
医院
下川興産
2F

YEAH...
TAKASHI... STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP...
SURE.
THANKS AGAIN.


下川興産
2F


CRNCH

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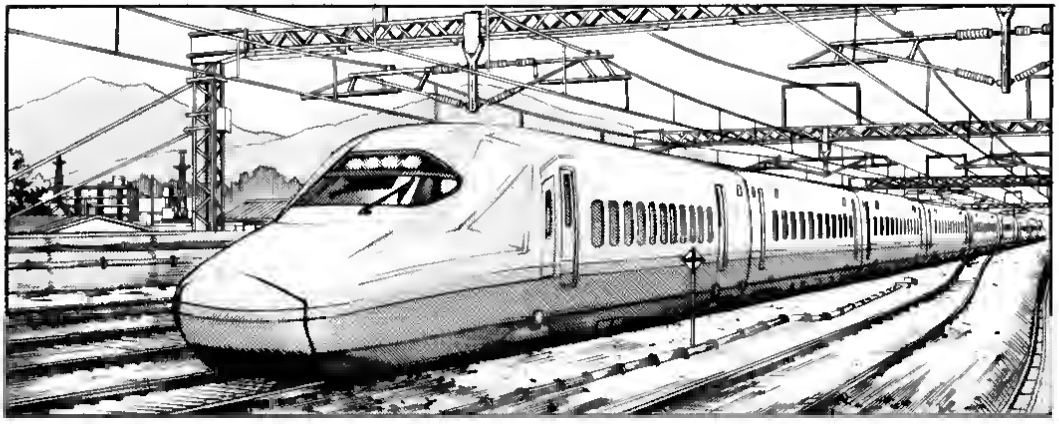
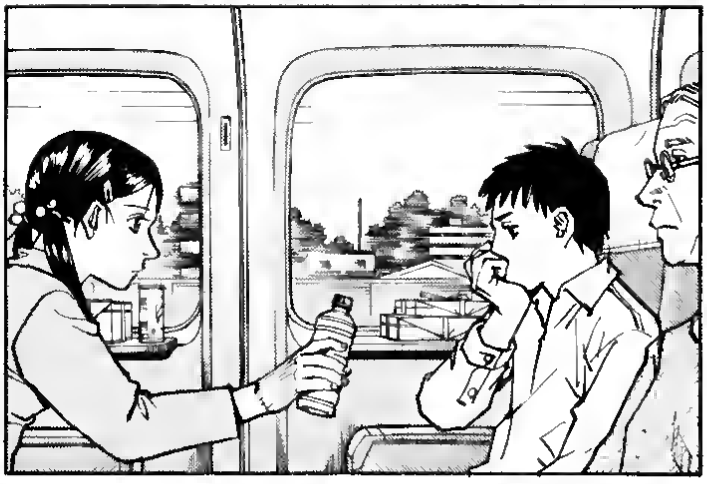
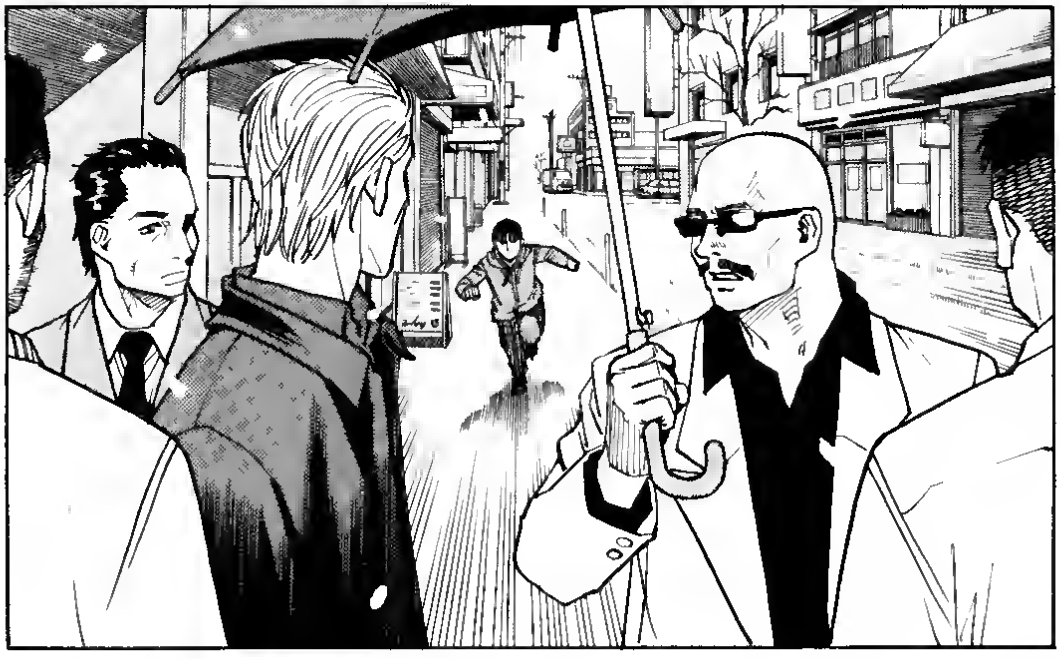
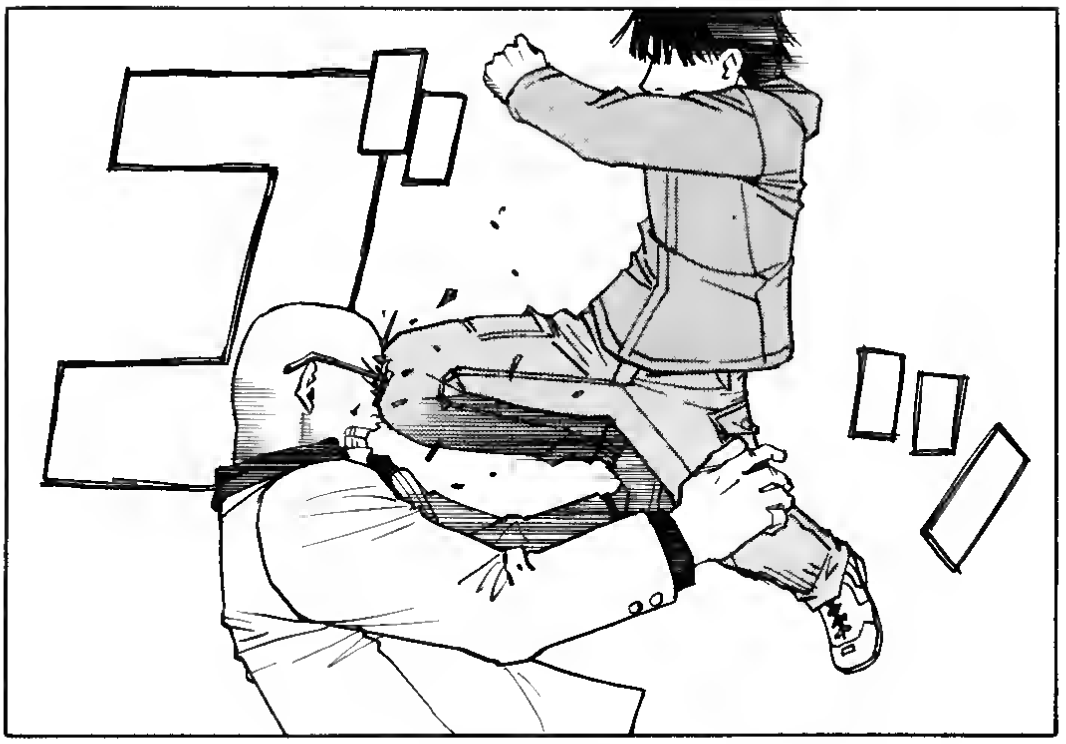






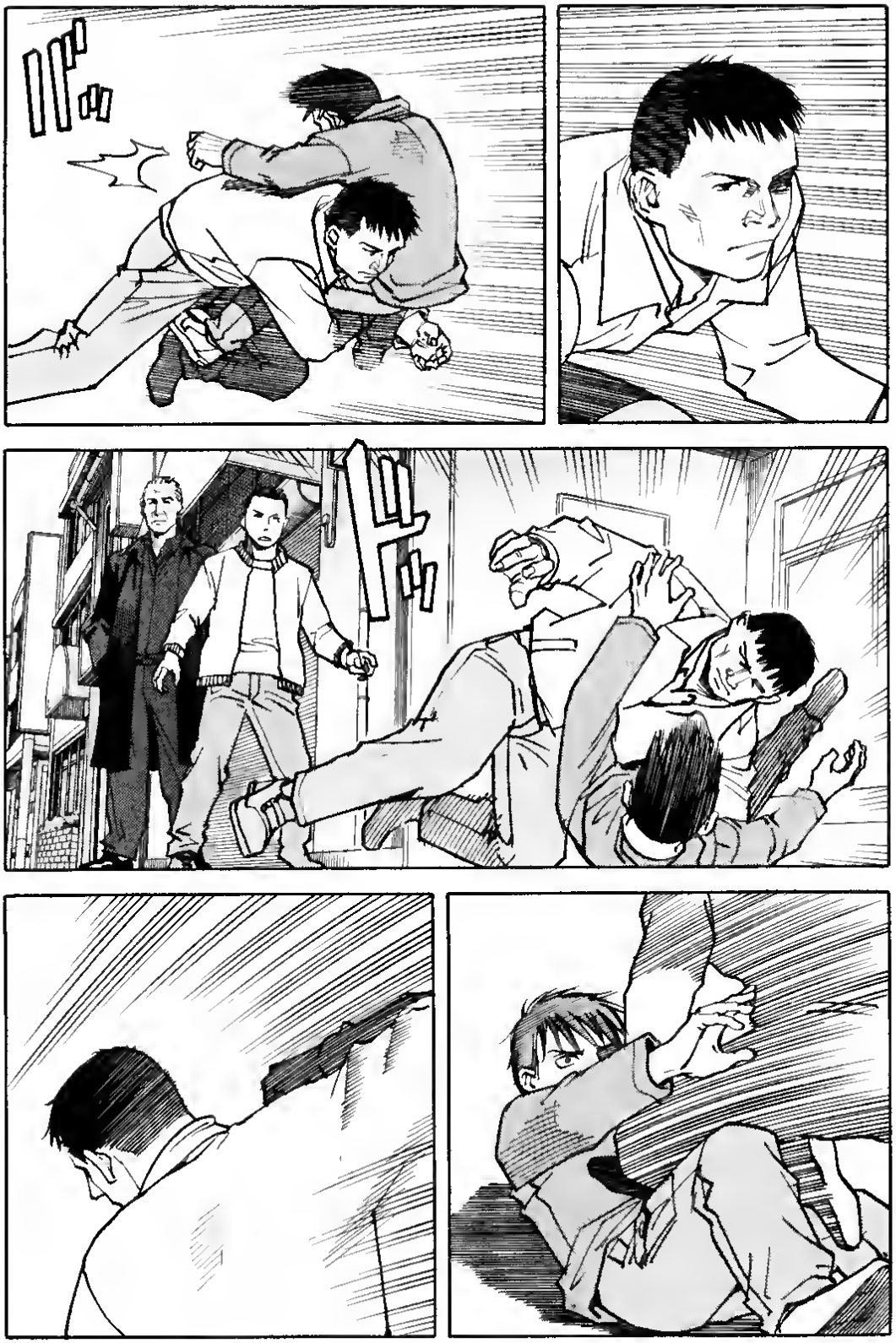
Chapter 2
7 Years Later

H-
HEY!
!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, KID?!
ドッ



FUCKING BRAT!
F-

ドス
ビュッ
AAAAGH!



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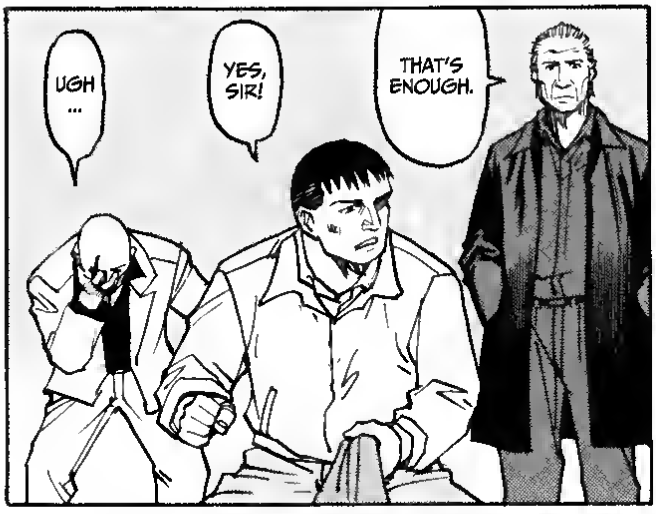
...

ピッ


UGH ...
YES, SIR!
THAT'S ENOUGH.

I'M GONNA KILL THIS LITTLE BASTARD.
DAMN IT!

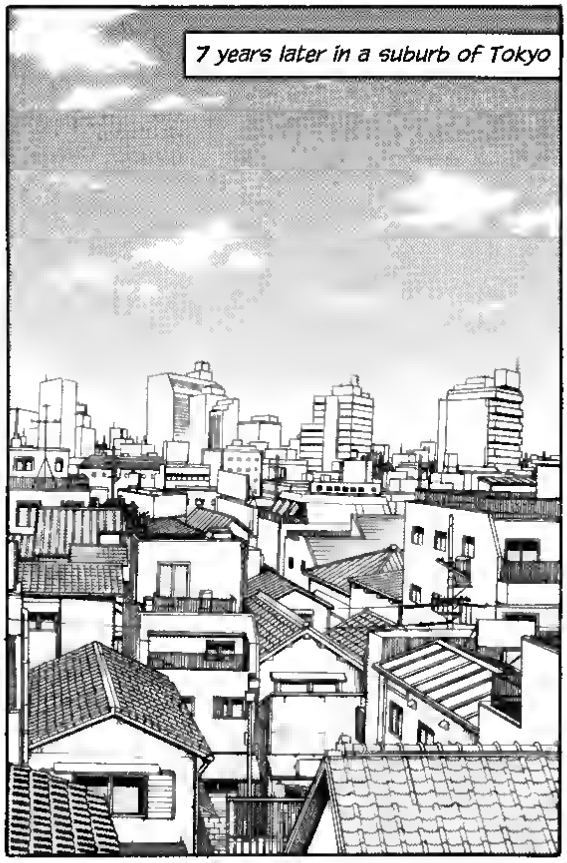
!
STOP IT.
HE'S JUST A KID.
...
TRYING TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER, EH?
DO YOU HATE ME?
KID...

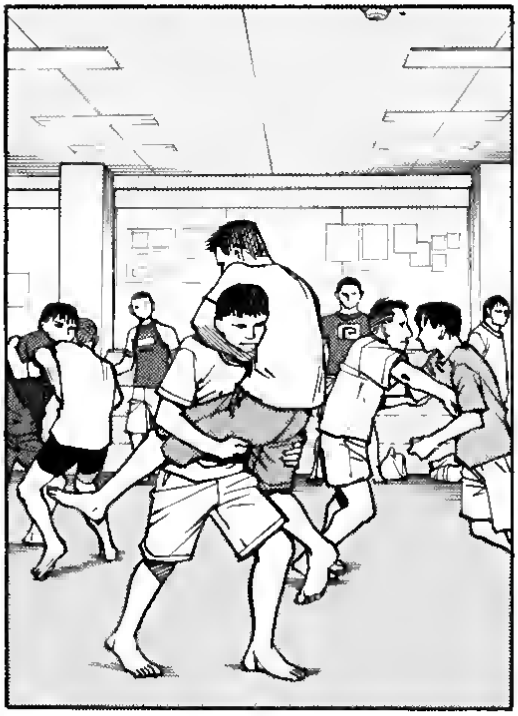
VROOM
COME AND FIND ME WHEN YOU GET STRONG-ER.
I'LL BE IN TOKYO.
...

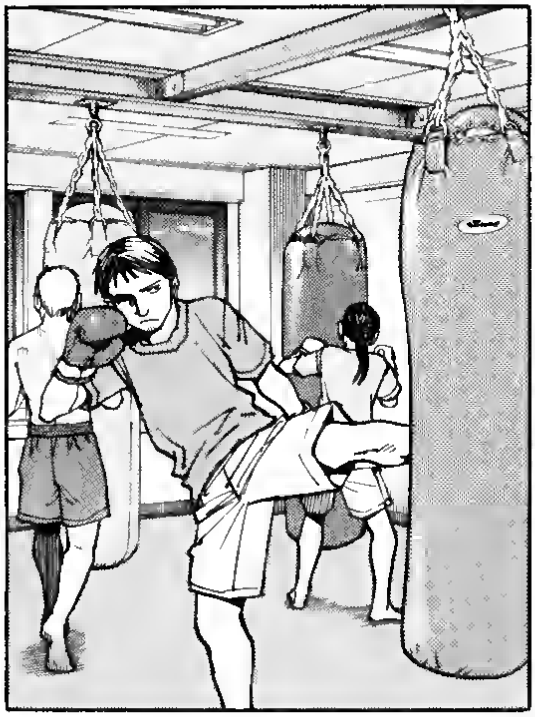
!
サララ
GRAND-PA.
MAKE ME STRONGER.
...
STRENGTH WITHOUT IDEOLOGY WILL DESTROY YOU...

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE STRONG...
...THEN FORGET ABOUT REVENGE.

キックボ
柔術修斗
クシング
歯科医院
ヒコクミン
ドラック
Renoir


7 years later in a suburb of Tokyo





HEY, MEGURU.
!
YOU KNOW KARATE, DON'T YOU?
ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T KNOW ANY KICKS, JUST GRAPPLING.
THAT WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
YOU'VE BEEN COMING HERE ABOUT SIX MONTHS, RIGHT?
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE IN...
...THE AMATEUR SHOOTO CONTEST NEXT MONTH?

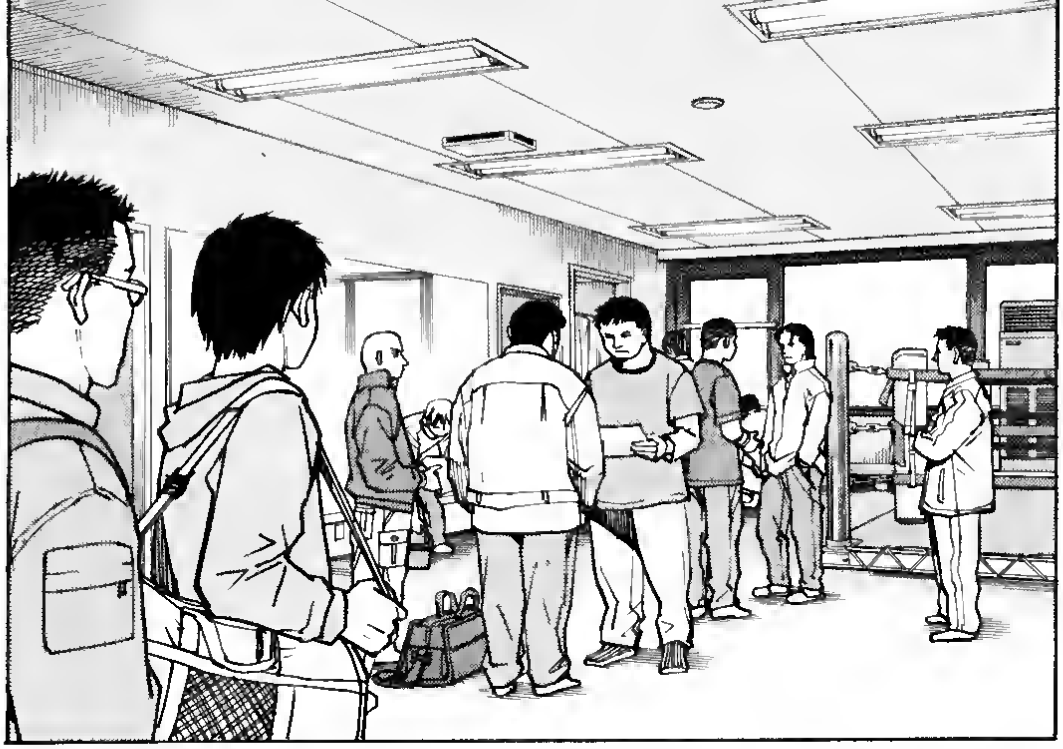
OK, ONE.
ぽふっ
I HAVEN'T PRACTICED ANYTHING BUT DEFENSE SINCE THEN.
TWO.
ぽふっ
THAT'S FINE, JUST GIVE ME A ONE-TWO COMBO AND A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
LEFT MIDDLE.
ベふっ
SWITCH.
すちゃ
REALLY ?
HERE'S THE APPLI-CATION.
SEE? YOU CAN DO IT.

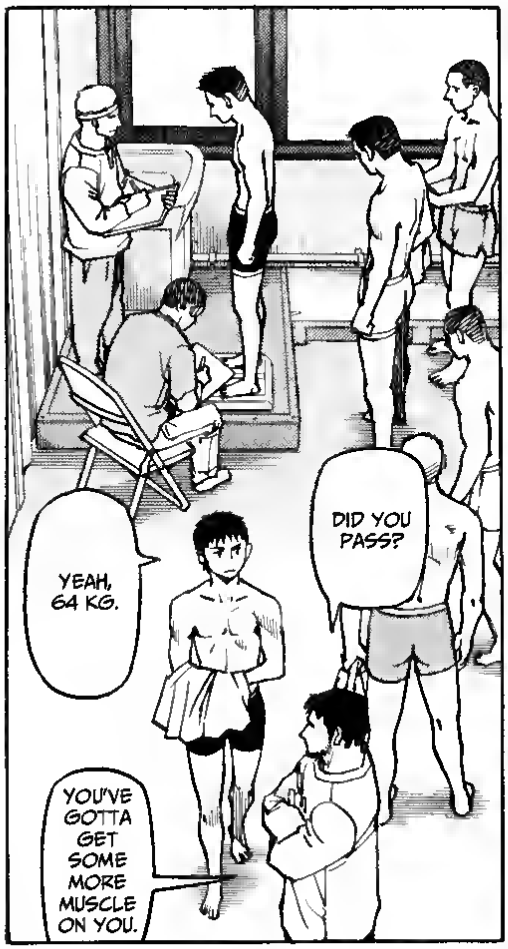
The day of the contest
¡ouro! GYM

UH, BUT...
WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT? GET INSIDE.
AM I REALLY GONNA FIGHT TODAY?

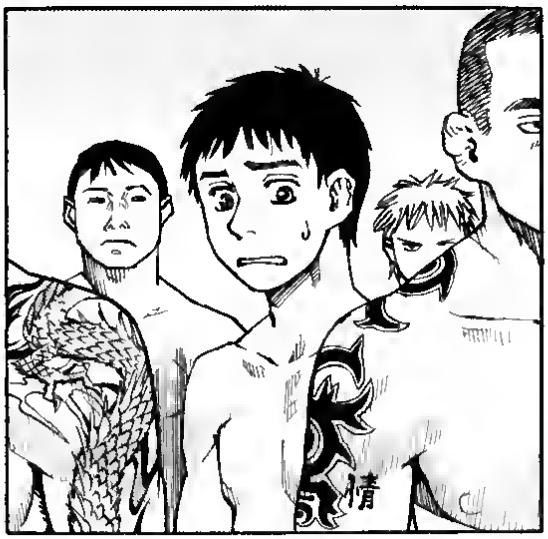
...

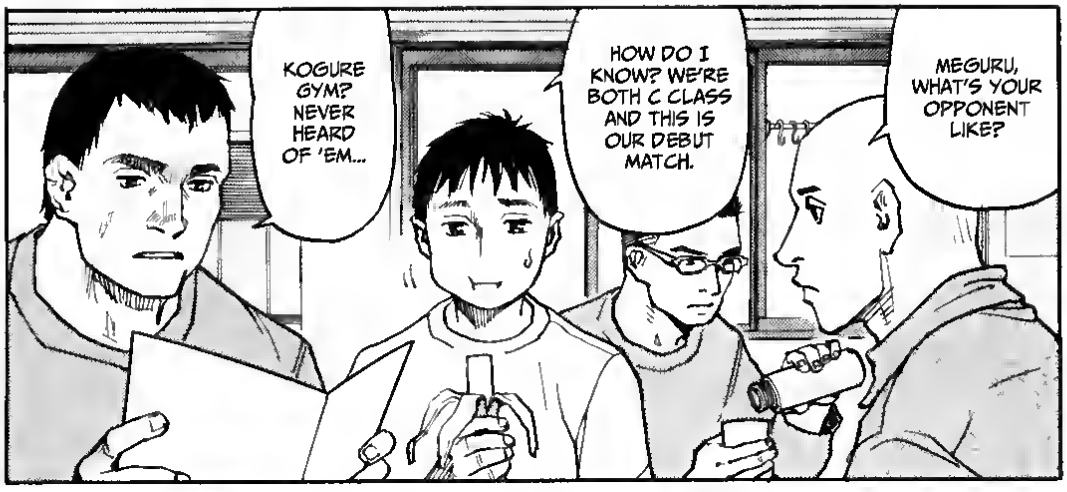
'KAY...
ぐいっ
JUST SUCK IT UP!
YOU'VE COME THIS FAR, YOU CAN'T BACK DOWN NOW!

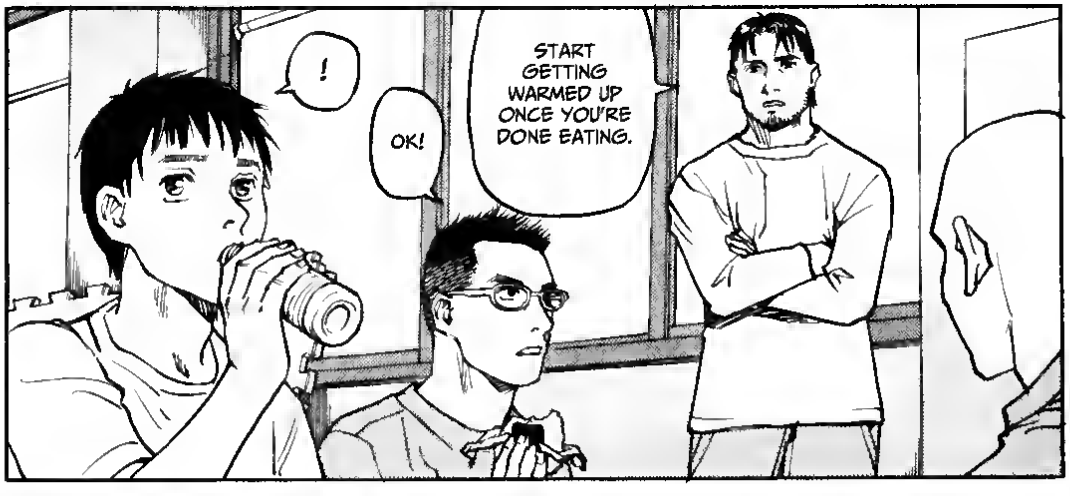


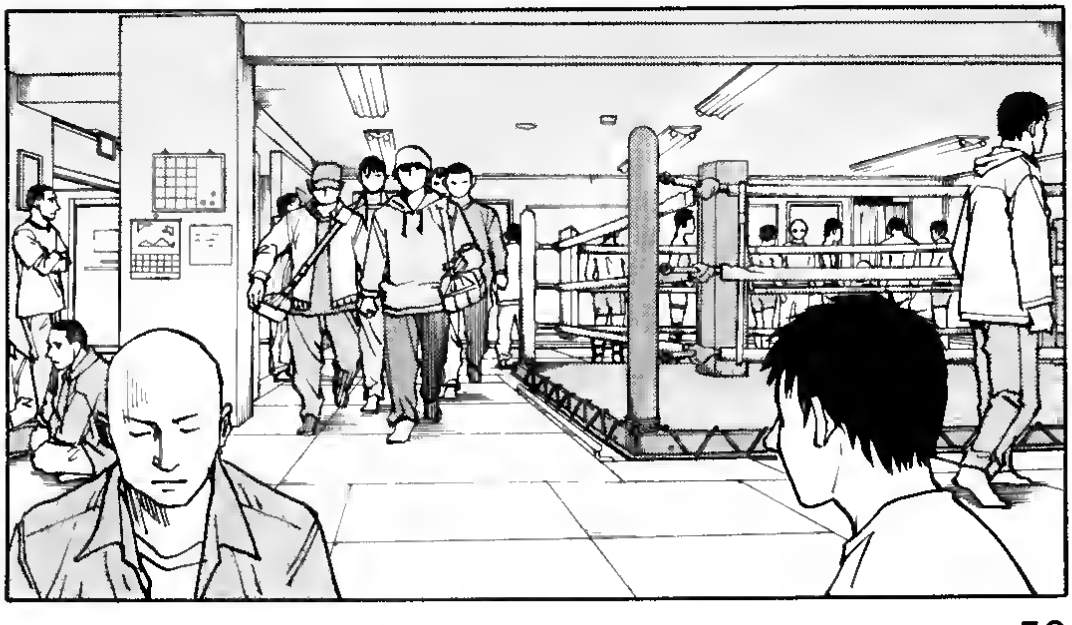

YEAH, 64 KG.
DID YOU PASS?
YOU'VE GOTTA GET SOME MORE MUSCLE ON YOU.

ALL RIGHT, TIME TO GET WEIGHED!




KOGURE GYM? NEVER HEARD OF 'EM...
HOW DO I KNOW? WE'RE BOTH C CLASS AND THIS IS OUR DEBUT MATCH.
MEGURU, WHAT'S YOUR OPPONENT LIKE?


!
OK!
START GETTING WARMED UP ONCE YOU'RE DONE EATING.



TAKASHI
?!
!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
TAKASHI, IT'S REALLY YOU!
PAT
FIGHTING.
PAT
YEAH...
...
UH, YEAH.
SORRY.
YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
HUH? WHAT?! YOU DO SHOOTO, TOO?
SORRY ...
HOW'S YOUR GRANDPA ?
WOW, IT'S BEEN AGES!
...BUT I DON'T LIKE TALKING TO MY OPPO-NENTS.

Class D
VS
Komatsu Kengo
Class C
Takashi Yamabuki
Negishi
BUT MY OPPONENT...
...IS TAKASHI YAMABUKI ...
FREE FIGHT 4
Amateur
Shooto
Fighting
THE PAMPHLET.
HUH?
...
SEGAWA'S MY OLD NAME.
I GO BY TAKASHI YAMABUKI NOW.

DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?
OF COURSE.
YOU UP AGAINST AN OLD FRIEND?
...
WHAT, YOU KNOW HIM?
THE HIGHER YOU GO, THE MORE YOU'LL BE UP AGAINST PEOPLE YOU KNOW.
YOU CAN TALK TO HIM AFTER-WARDS, RIGHT?
JUST SUCK IT UP.
...

NOT LIKE THAT! KEEP YOUR LEG DOWN!
JUST CALM DOWN AND STRADDLE HIS HEAD!
STOP!
TAP TAP
コロニ!!
...
DING DING DING

GLANCE
The referee has called a stop to this match at 1 minute and 20 seconds of round number two, declaring the winner by Submission due to an armbar...
RELAX.
OK.
DON'T FREEZE UP JUST 'CAUSE IT'S YOUR DEBUT MATCH.
OK.
AND JUST ENJOY THE FIGHT.
QUIT LOOKING OVER THERE!
CONCENTRATE!
RIGHT!
WELL, MAYBE THAT'S ASKING TOO MUCH.
WHICH IS IT?!

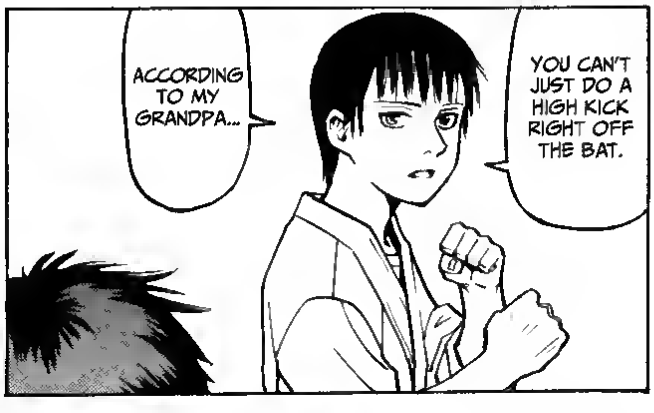
...MEGURU TAKAYANAGI!
IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM MIXED MARTIAL ARTS DOJO KOGURE GYM...
MATCH 5, CLASS C, LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, 2 ROUNDS!
SHOOTO
...TAKASHI YAMABUKI!
LOOK AT HIS BODY.
LOOKS LIKE HE DROPPED FROM OVER 70 KG...

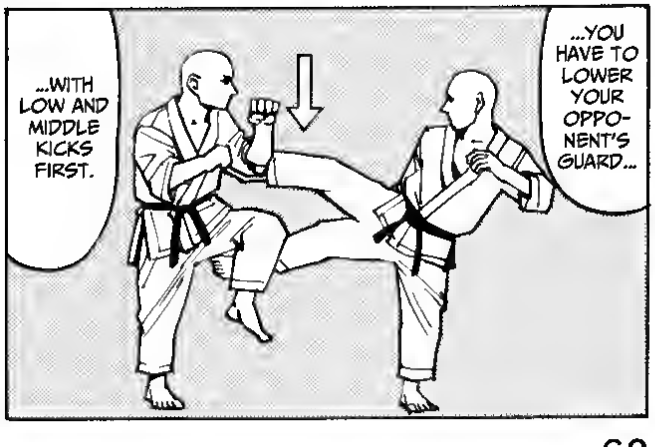
IN YOUR CORNERS !
FIGHT!
SHOOTO SINCE

Chapter 3 | First Contact

*LIT. "ONE FULL POINT," THE HIGHEST SCORE A FIGHTER CAN BE AWARDED IN A MARTIAL-ARTS CONTEST

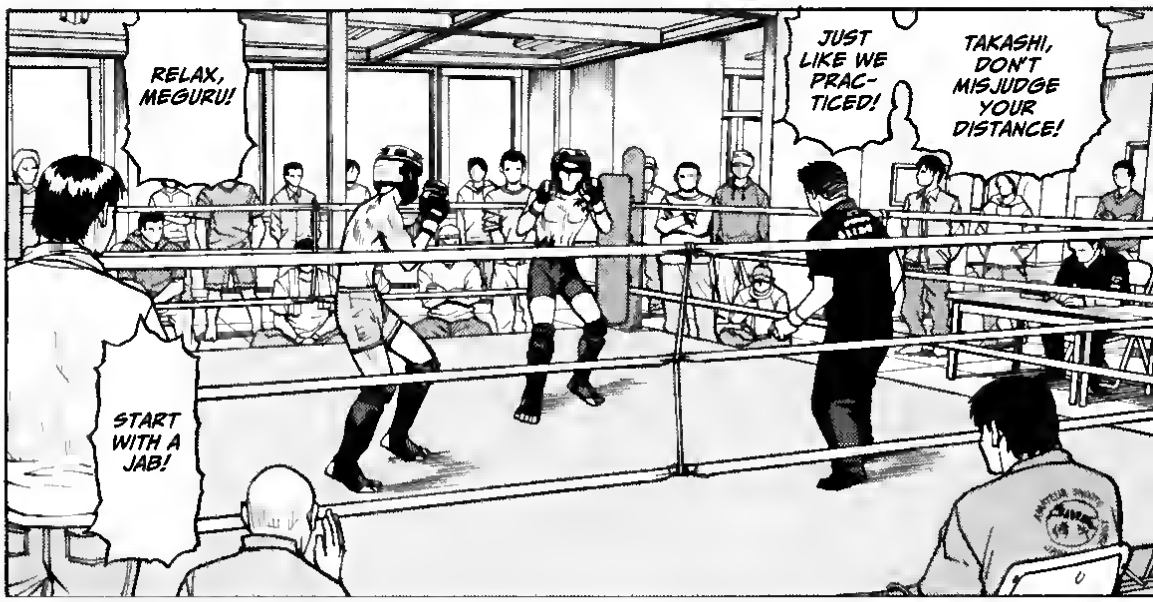
SIGN: SEGAWA DOJO

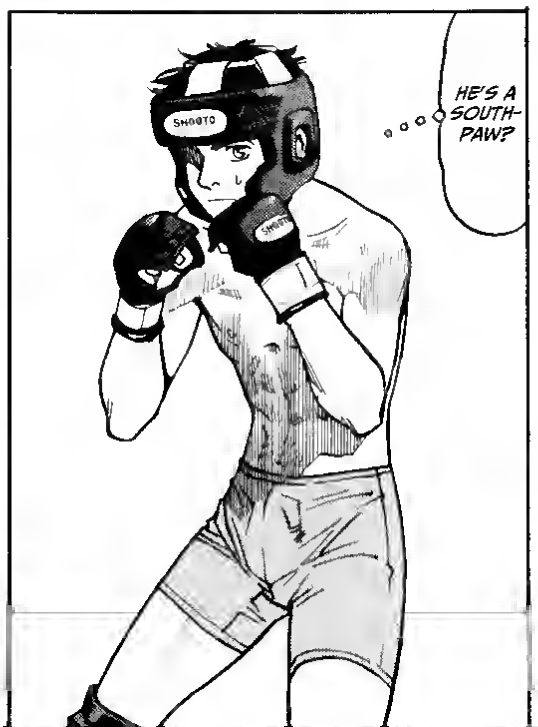


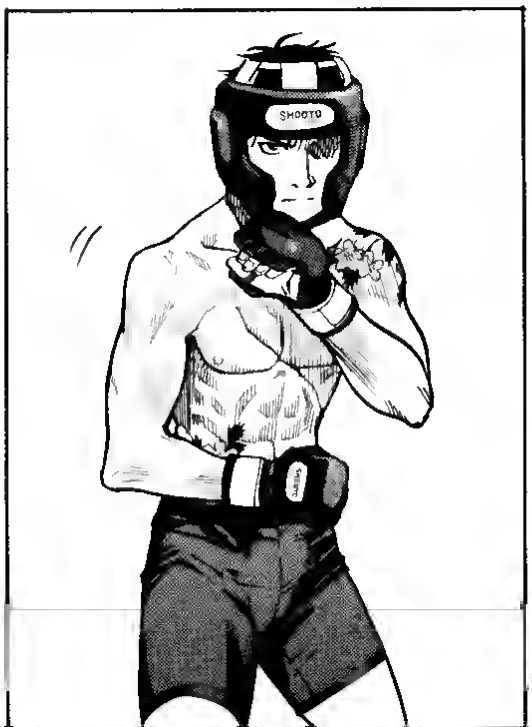


*A SPECIAL STYLE OF KARATE

YOU START LIKE A MIDDLE KICK...
YOU KNOW IT?
IT'S A KICK OFTEN USED BY BRAZILIAN KYOKUSHIN* FIGHTERS.
THE BRA-ZILIAN KICK?
SO...
COOL!
WOW.
...AND THEN TWIST YOUR KNEE FOR A HIGH KICK.
MAYBE WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT SOMEDAY?
'COURSE NOT.
CAN YOU DO IT?
BUT...


RELAX, MEGURU!
START WITH A JAB!
JUST LIKE WE PRAC-TICED!
TAKASHI, DON'T MISJUDGE YOUR DISTANCE!

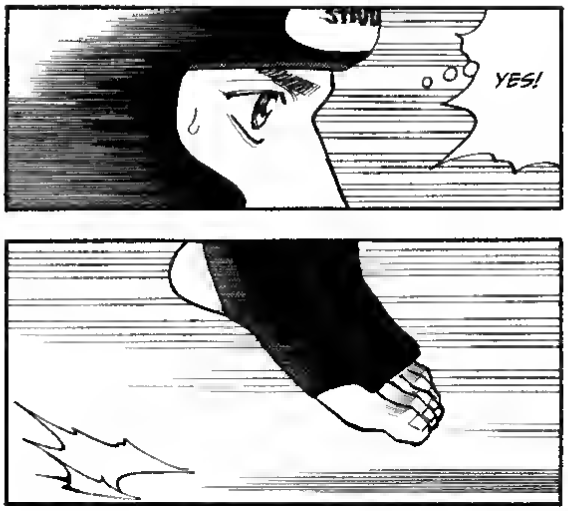

SHOOTO
HE'S A SOUTH-PAW?


SHOOTO

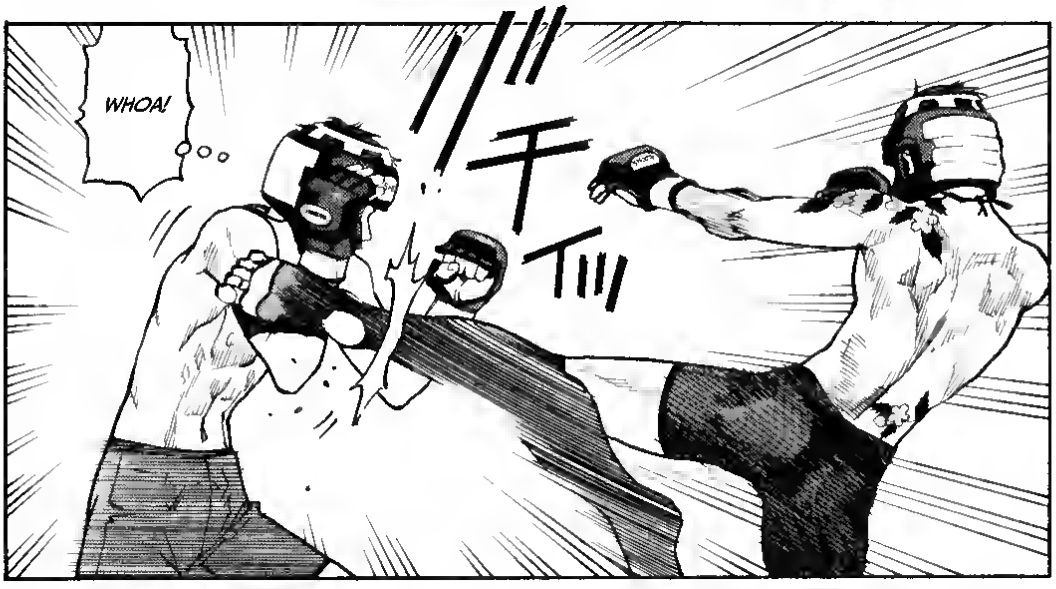
A MIDDLE LEFT?!
SHOOTO
SHOOTO

キュッ
WHOOPS!
IT'S A KARATE KICK...
HE WENT FOR A HIGH LEFT RIGHT OFF THE BAT?!
ドッ
!!
ズ
GET UP.
SLIP!
...

FIGHT!
KEEP YOUR GUARD UP AND GO FOR A ONE-TWO COMBO!
MEGURU! CALM DOWN!
I HOPE THAT DOESN'T THROW HIM OFF...
IT MAY LOOK PRETTY, BUT...
A BRAZILIAN KICK...
TAKA-SHI,
IT'S SLOW AND PUTS YOU OFF BALANCE, SO IT'S NOT A GOOD CHOICE FOR MMA.
SHOOTO
LOOKIN' GOOD, MEGURU! START WITH A JAB!
THAT'S IT! SHAKE YOUR HEAD!
I'LL SHOOT FOR A TAKEDOWN ON HIS NEXT KICK!
ALL RIGHT!


YES!

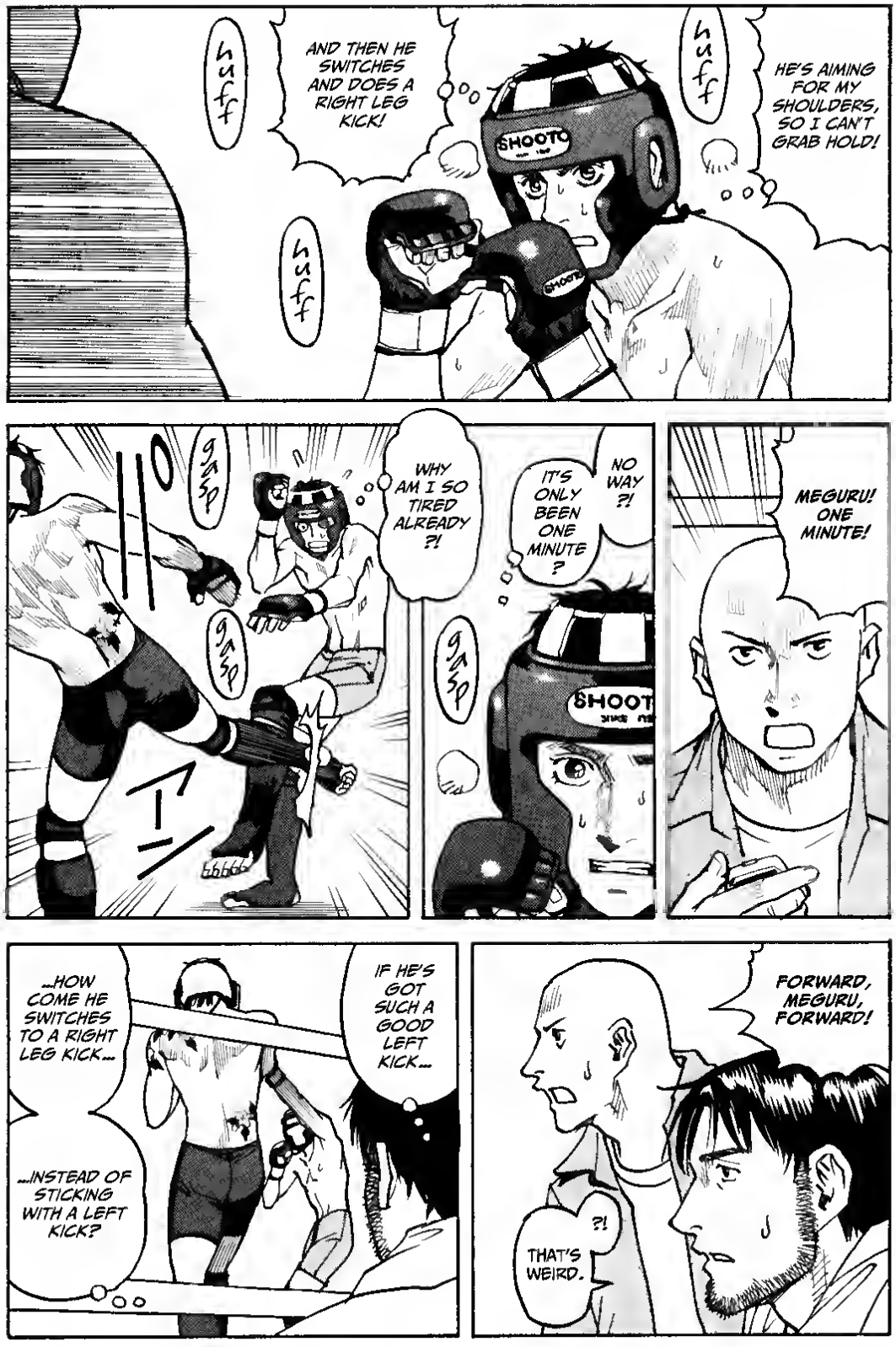
ヒュン


WHOA!
チィィ

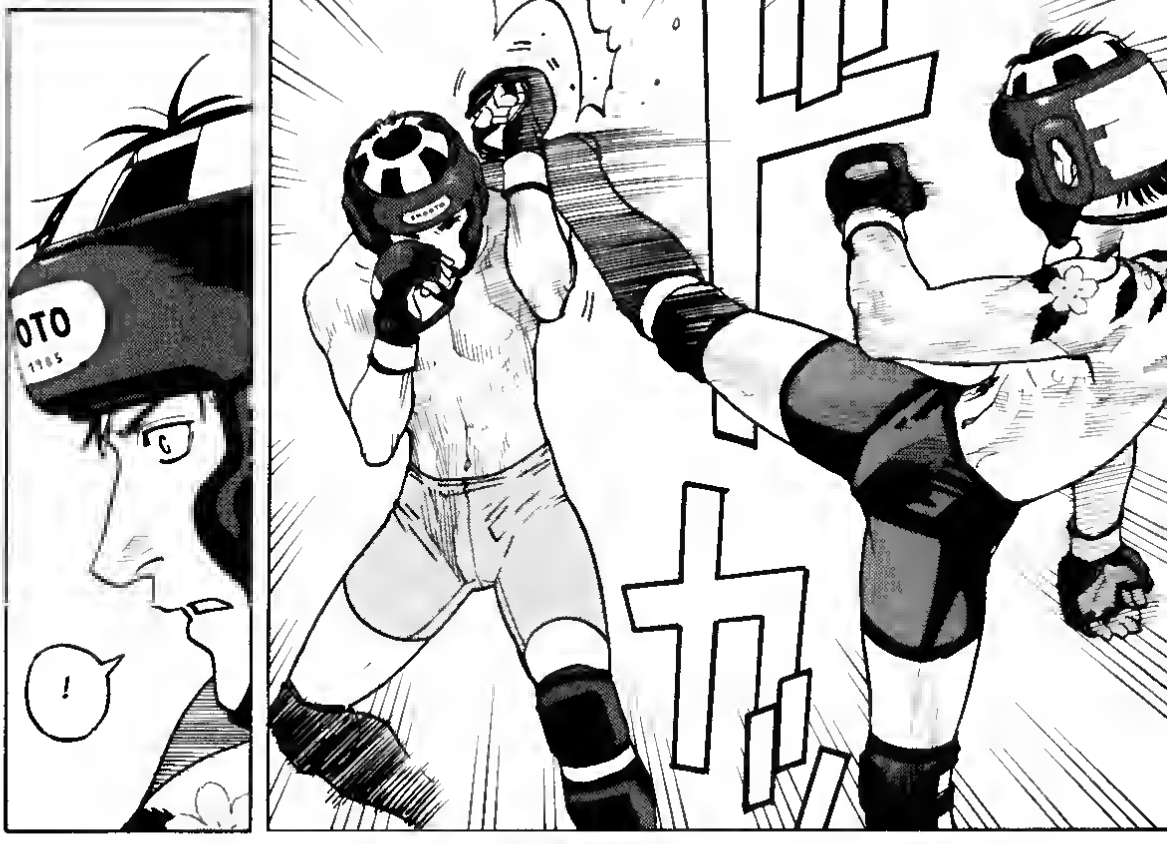
AH!
アニ

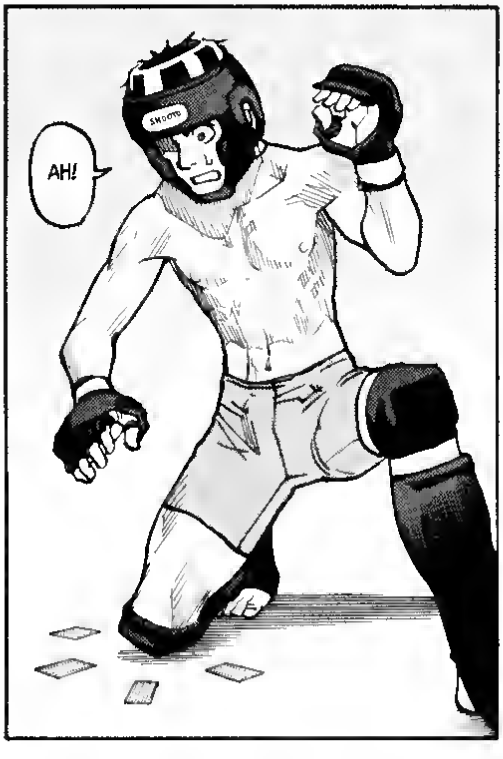
NOW A FAST MIDDLE?!
HE KNOWS WHICH TO USE...

110
⇒HRG⇐
UNGH!...
MEGURU! CATCH THE MIDDLE KICK AND TAKE HIM DOWN!
EVERY TIME HE TRIES TO GET CLOSER, HE GETS A MIDDLE LEFT...


huff
AND THEN HE SWITCHES AND DOES A RIGHT LEG KICK!
huff
HE'S AIMING FOR MY SHOULDERS, SO I CAN'T GRAB HOLD!
SHOOTO
gasp
WHY AM I SO TIRED ALREADY ?!
gasp
IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE MINUTE ?
NO WAY ?!
MEGURU! ONE MINUTE!
...HOW COME HE SWITCHES TO A RIGHT LEG KICK...
...INSTEAD OF STICKING WITH A LEFT KICK?
IF HE'S GOT SUCH A GOOD LEFT KICK...
FORWARD, MEGURU, FORWARD!
?!
THAT'S WEIRD.

!
SHIT!
...AND TRY AND PIN HIM...
DAMN IT! I'VE GOTTA CATCH THIS LEG KICK...
HUH? WAIT A SEC...
WAS TAKASHI LEFT-HANDED?
THE RIGHT LEG KICK'S A FAKE!
MEGURU! GET YOUR GUARD UP!
HE'S GONNA...
ス
チャ!!!


OTO
!

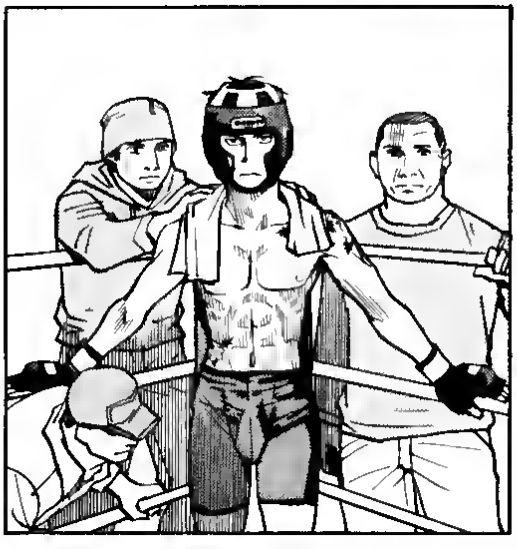

AH!

BUT...
...GO FOR A HIGH RIGHT...
HE BLOCKED IT...

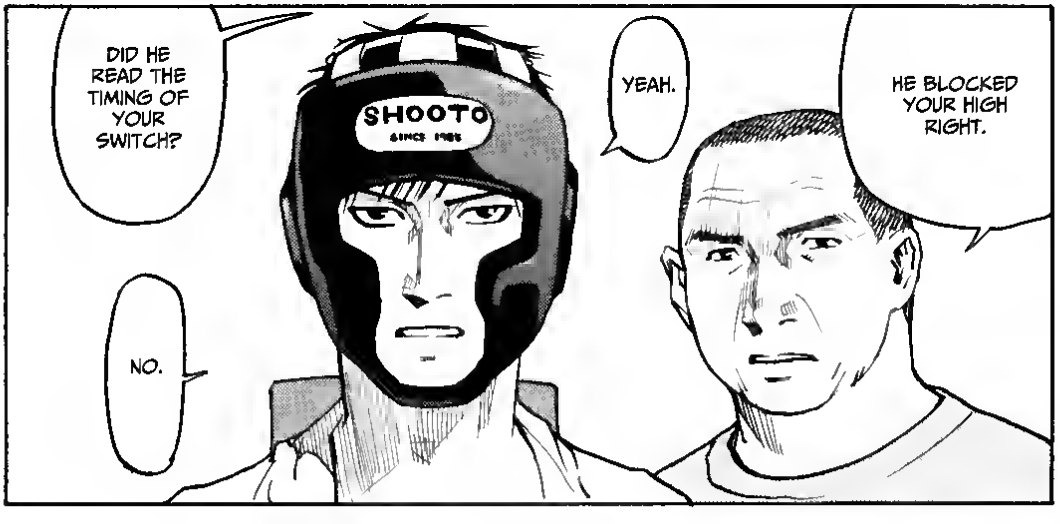
gasp
twitch twitch
SHOOTO
THAT WAS CLOSE ...
gasp

YOU ONLY GET A FIVE-COUNT IN AMATEUR RULES!
MEGURU, STAND UP!
WHA?
ONE!
TWO!
DOWN!
カァン
REFEREE
ばっ
FOUR!
ROUND ONE OVER!

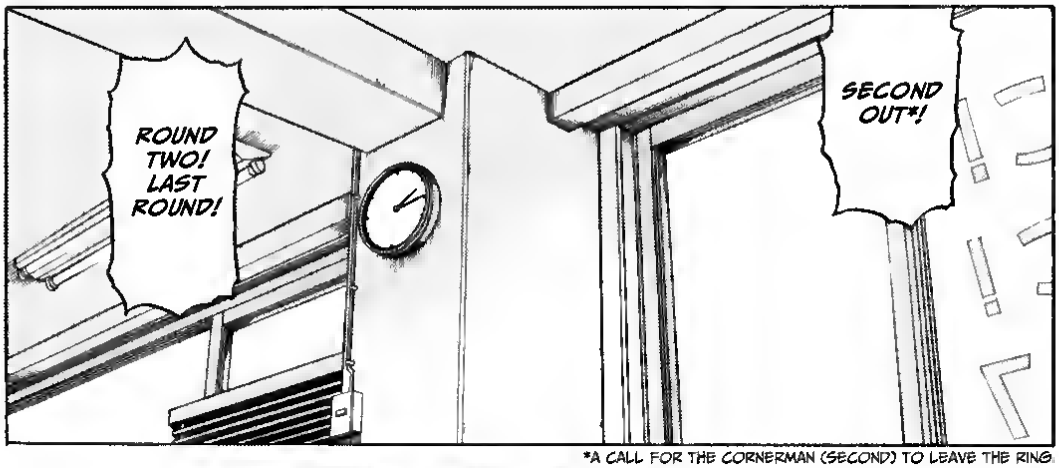
I'M SURPRISED YOU SAW THAT HIGH RIGHT COMING.
TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
huff
huff



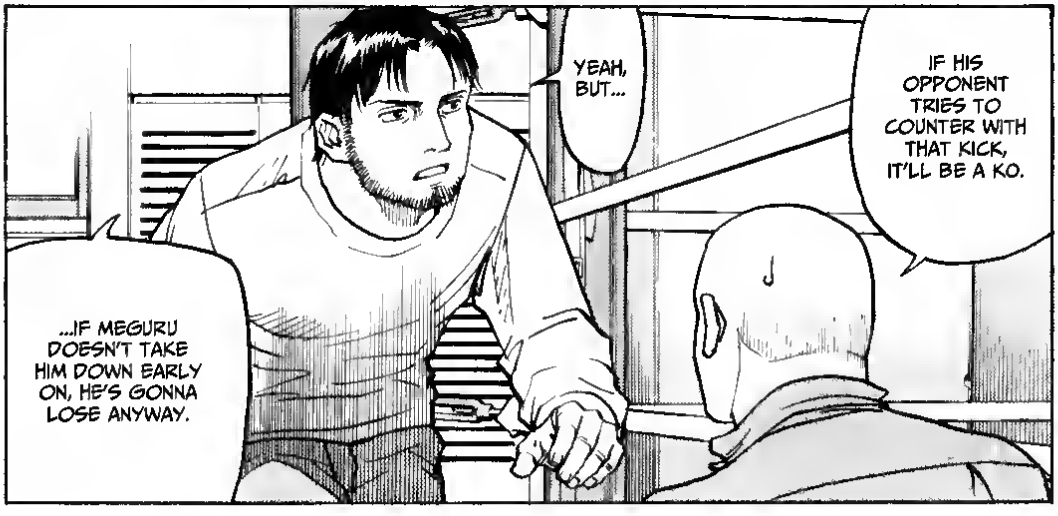
YEAH.
huff
huff
A RIGHT-HANDED SOUTH-PAW?
I FIGURED HE'D TRY AND FINISH ME OFF WITH A RIGHT...

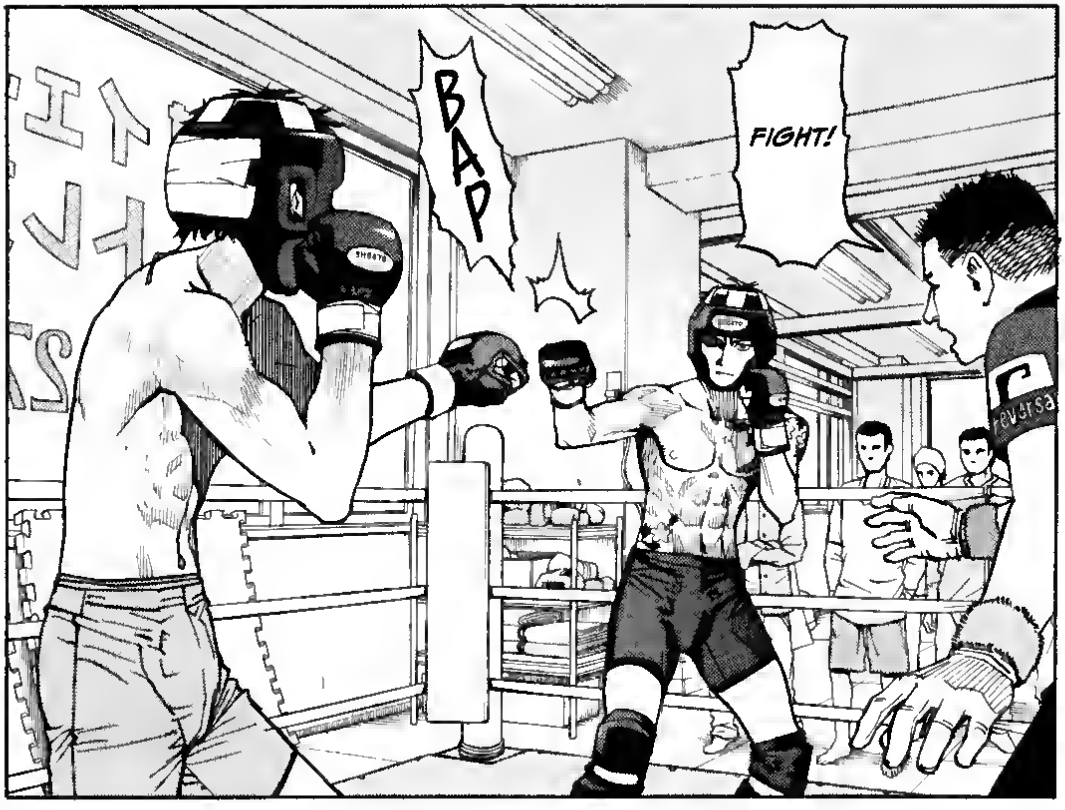

DID HE READ THE TIMING OF YOUR SWITCH?
NO.
YEAH.
HE BLOCKED YOUR HIGH RIGHT.
SHOOTO
SINCE 1985

...MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR GUARD UP ON THE RIGHT AND GO FOR A TAKEDOWN WHEN HE COMES AT YOU!
OK!
LISTEN, MEGURU. IN THE NEXT ROUND ...
DON'T BE NERVOUS!
OK!



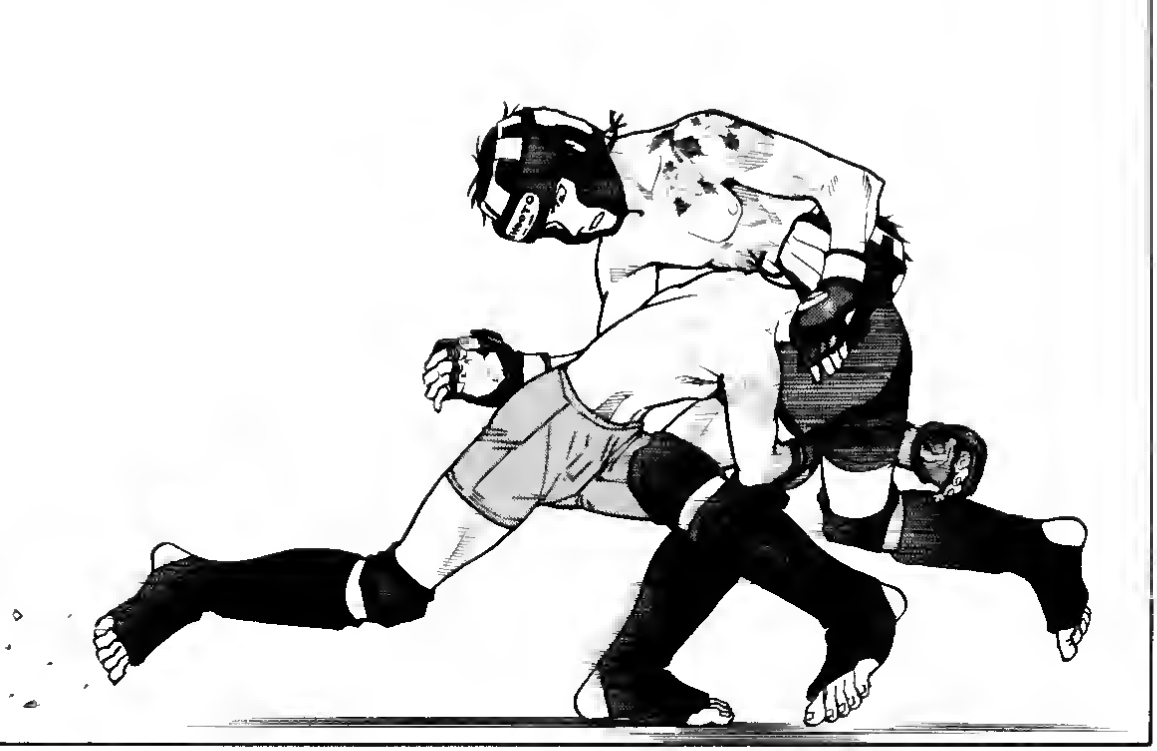
*A CALL FOR THE CORNERMAN (SECOND) TO LEAVE THE RING.

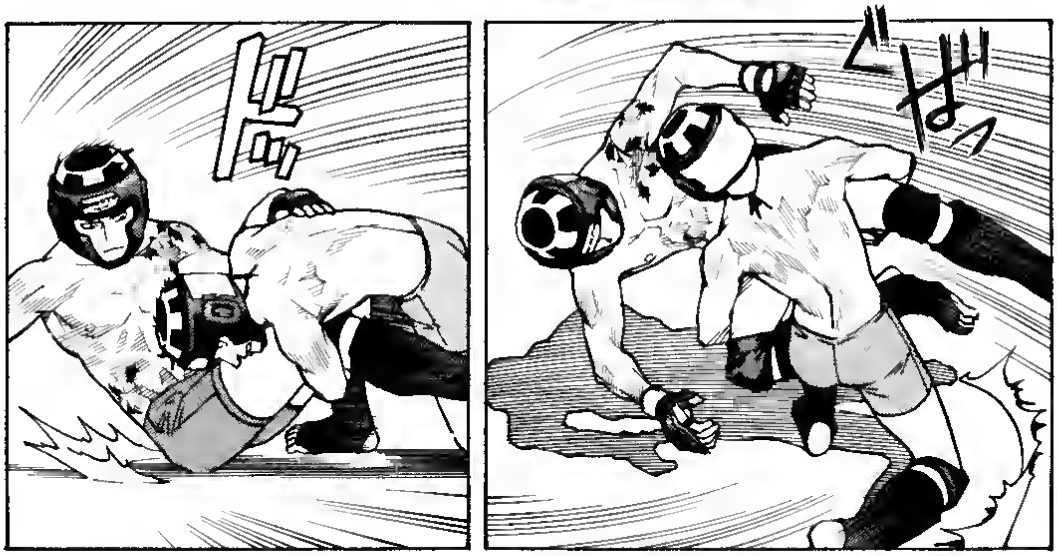

...IF MEGURU DOESN'T TAKE HIM DOWN EARLY ON, HE'S GONNA LOSE ANYWAY.
YEAH, BUT...
IF HIS OPPONENT TRIES TO COUNTER WITH THAT KICK, IT'LL BE A KO.

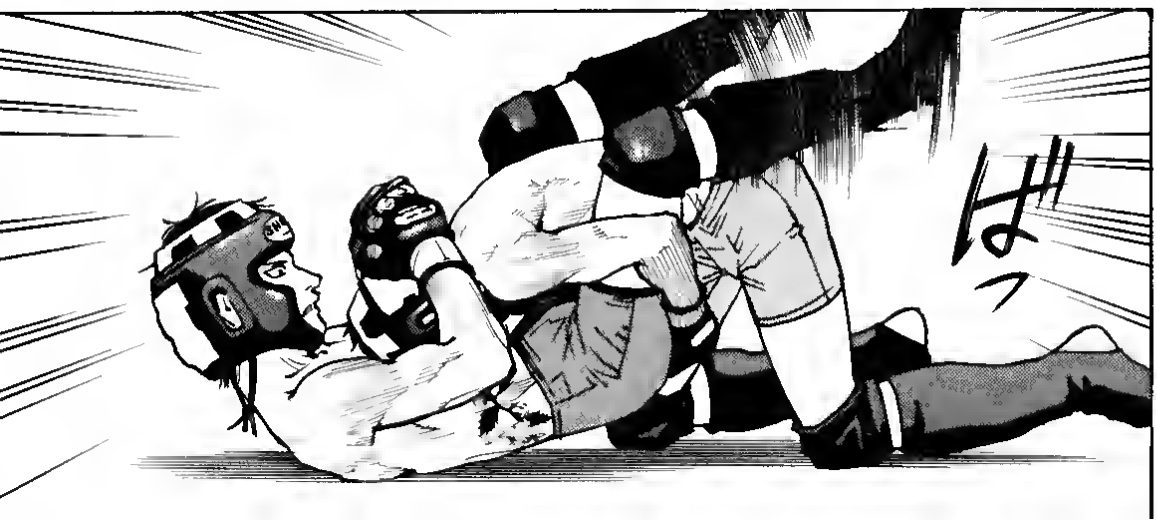

BAP
FIGHT!

KICKING'S NOT GONNA GET ME ANYWHERE.
I'VE GOTTA SHOOT WHEN HE COMES AT ME!
SHOOTO

NOW'S MY CHANCE!
SHOOTO



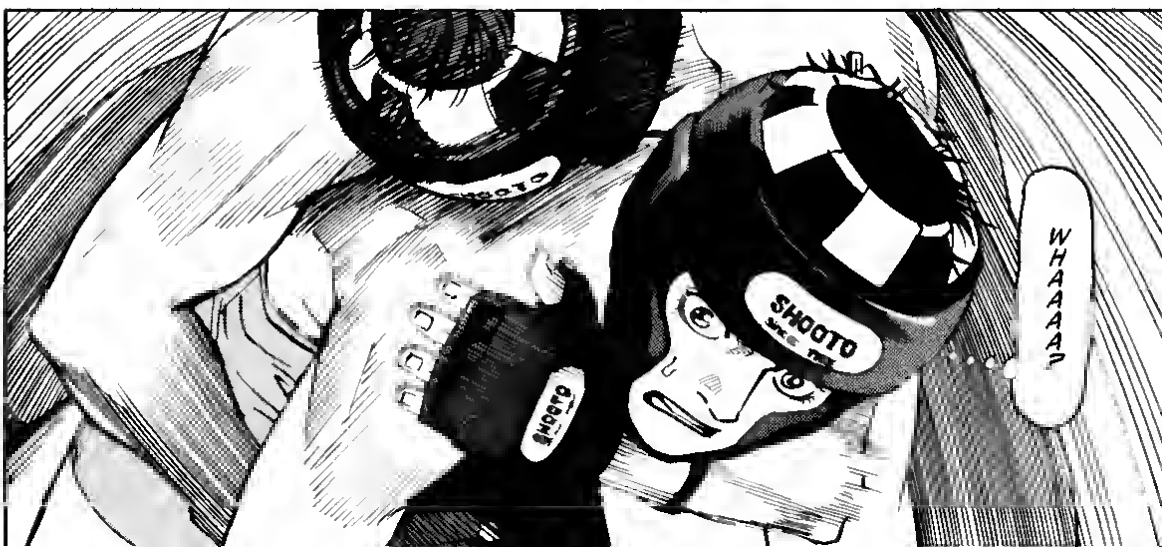

ドッ
ハッ


ばっ

TOP.
SHOOTO
KEEP HIM RIGHT THERE!
THAT'S IT, MEGURU!

AH!

GRAB

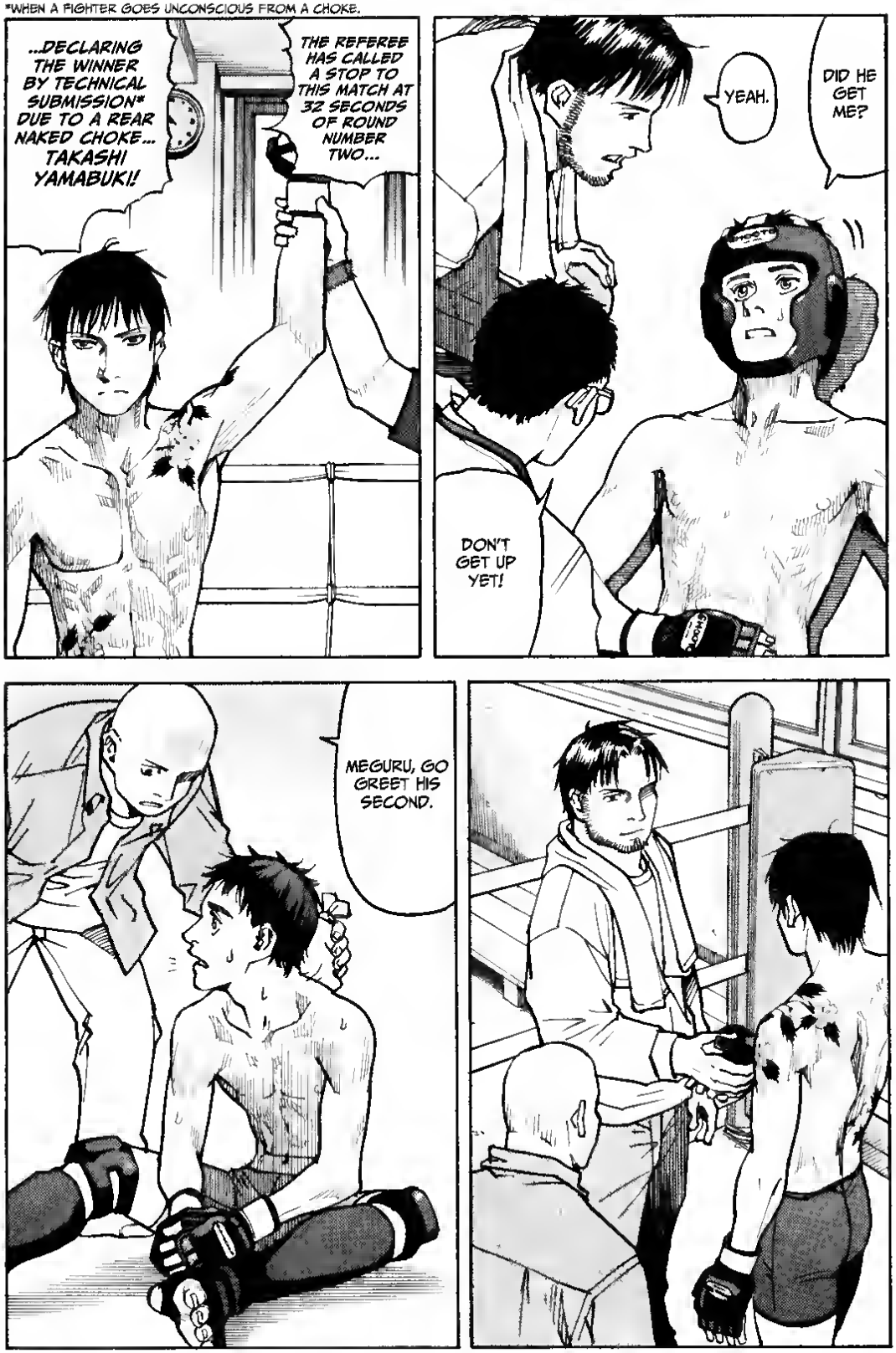

SHOOTO
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
WHAAAAP

AN ARM DRAG ?!
HE'S FAST!
ばっ
BACK
KEEP YOUR ASS UP AND SHAKE HIM OFF!
MEGURU, DON'T LET HIM FLATTEN YOU OUT!
!
reversal
SHOOTO

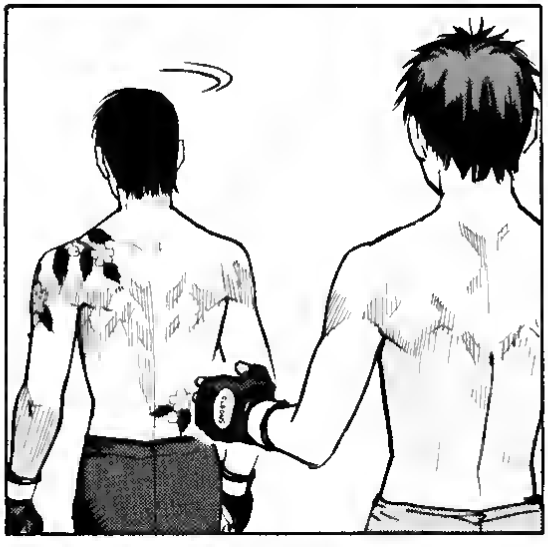
*A "CATCH" CALL IS ISSUED WHEN A SUBMISSION IS ALMOST EFFECTIVE. THE REFEREE WILL THEN ASK THE FIGHTER WHETHER HE WILL GIVE UP OR NOT. IF THE FIGHTER DOES NOT DEFEND AGAINST THE SUBMISSION HOLD, OR DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTION OR SCREAMS IN PAIN, THE REFEREE MAY JUDGE THE SUBMISSION HOLD COMPLETE, AND WILL STOP THE FIGHT.

THE MATCH IS OVER!
PLEASE REMOVE YOUR HEADGEAR!
VRIP
HE'S BACK.
OH!

*WHEN A FIGHTER GOES UNCONSCIOUS FROM A CHOKE.


...DECLARING THE WINNER BY TECHNICAL SUBMISSION* DUE TO A REAR NAKED CHOKE... TAKASHI YAMABUKI!
THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH AT 32 SECONDS OF ROUND NUMBER TWO...
DID HE GET ME?
YEAH.
DON'T GET UP YET!
MEGURU, GO GREET HIS SECOND.

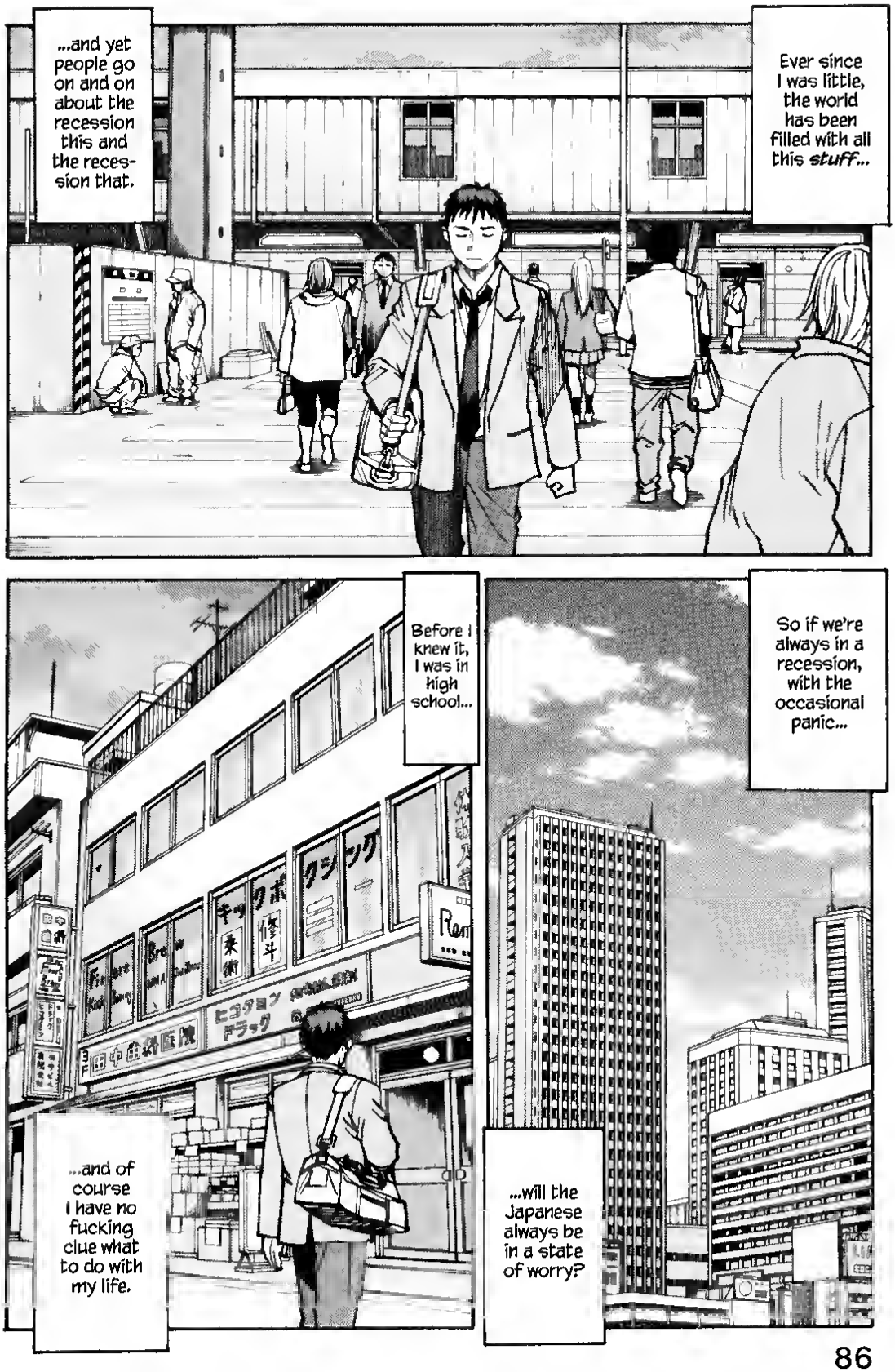
MATCH 6, WELTER-WEIGHT DIVISION, 2 ROUNDS!
THANKS...
REFEREE

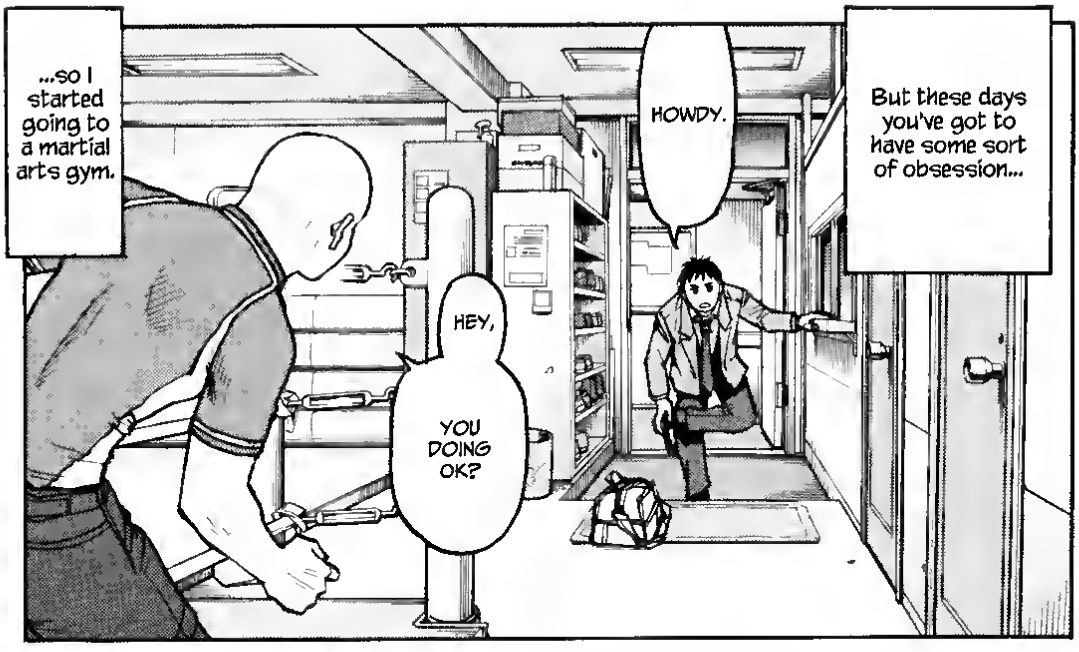


TAKA-SHI.
!

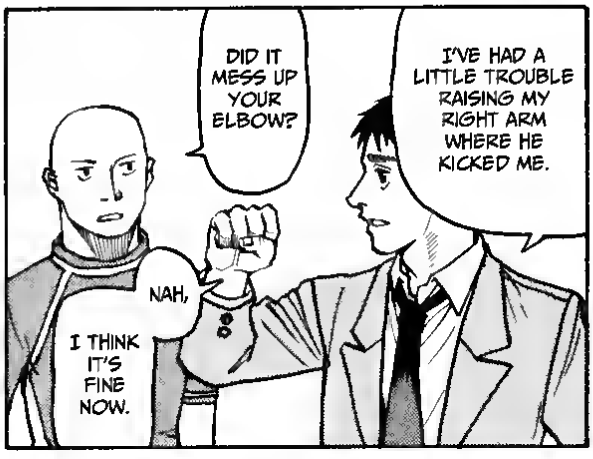
...
THAT'S YOUR OLD FRIEND, ISN'T IT? YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO HIM?
...HATED HIM.
I ALWAYS...

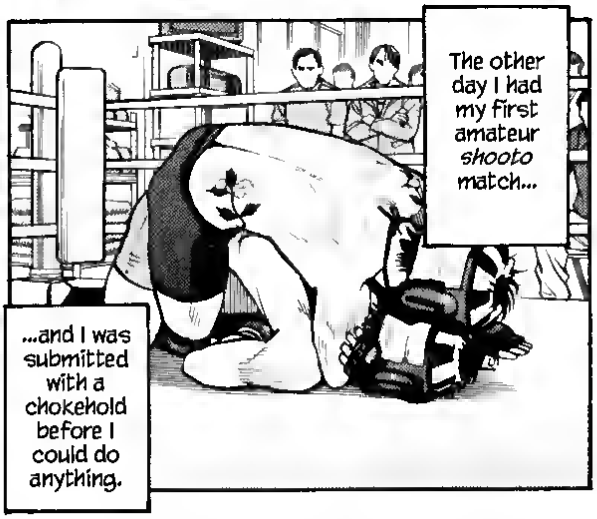
Chapter 4 | Pro Training


Ever since I was little, the world has been filled with all this *stuff*...
...and yet people go on and on about the recession this and the recession that.
So if we're always in a recession, with the occasional panic...
Before I knew it, I was in high school...
...will the Japanese always be in a state of worry?
...and of course I have no fucking clue what to do with my life.


...so I started going to a martial arts gym.
HOWDY.
But these days you've got to have some sort of obsession...
HEY, YOU DOING OK?

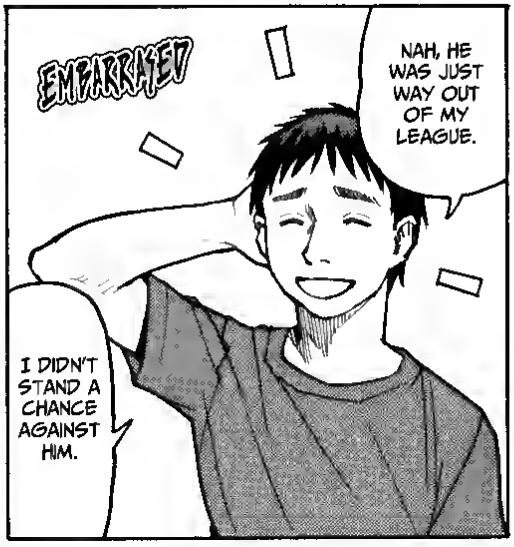
RIGHT AND LEFT WERE BOTH THE SAME STRENGTH.
MAN, HIS KICKS WERE REALLY SOME-THING.
ISN'T IT GALLING?


DID IT MESS UP YOUR ELBOW?
I'VE HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE RAISING MY RIGHT ARM WHERE HE KICKED ME.
NAH, I THINK IT'S FINE NOW.


The other day I had my first amateur *shooto* match...
...and I was submitted with a chokehold before I could do anything.

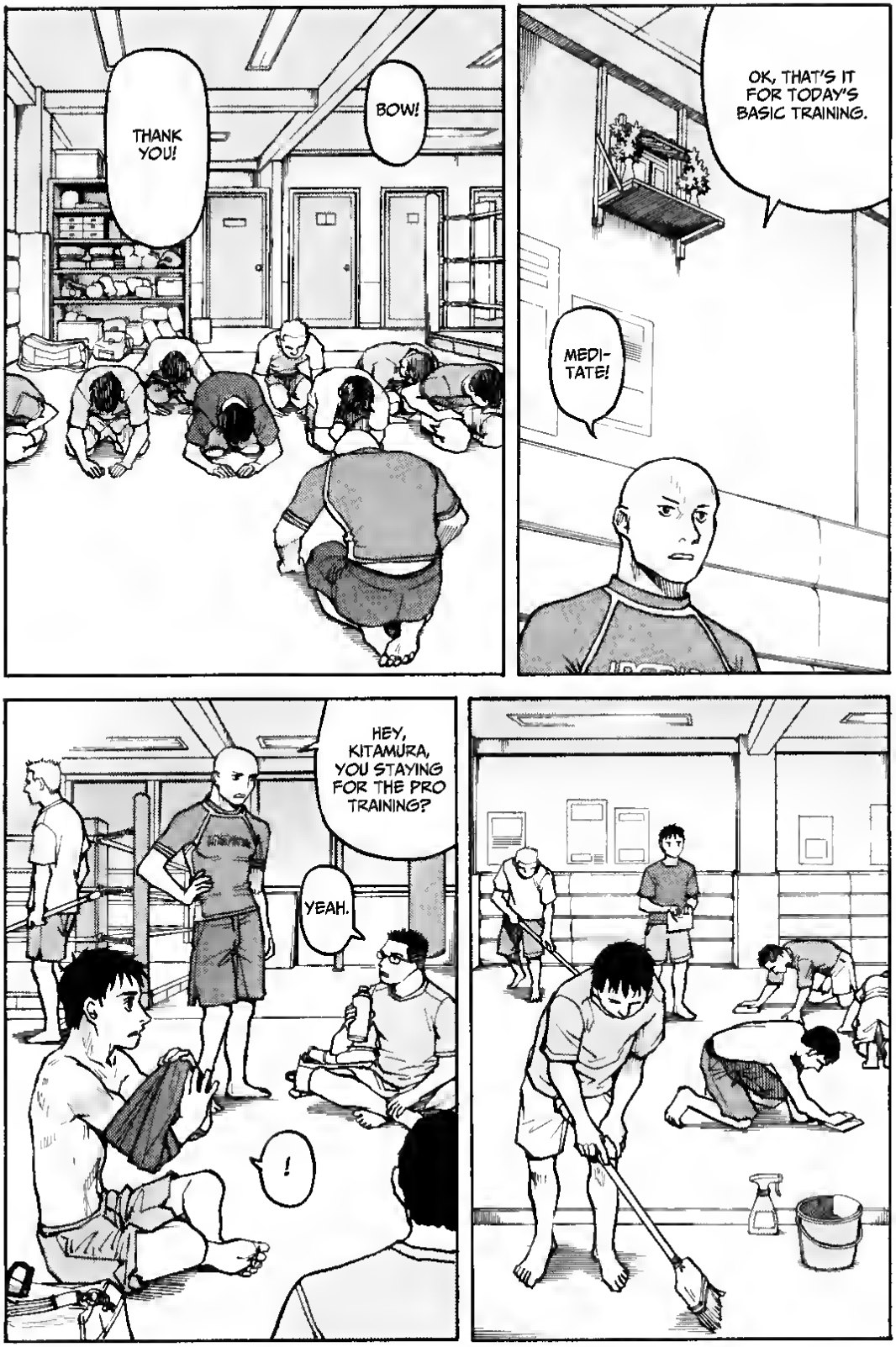
...TO LOSE LIKE THAT?
ISN'T IT GALLING ...
HUH?

...


EMBARRASED
NAH, HE WAS JUST WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.
I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM.

...IS THAT YOU JUST DIDN'T PRACTICE ENOUGH.
ALL IT MEANS ...

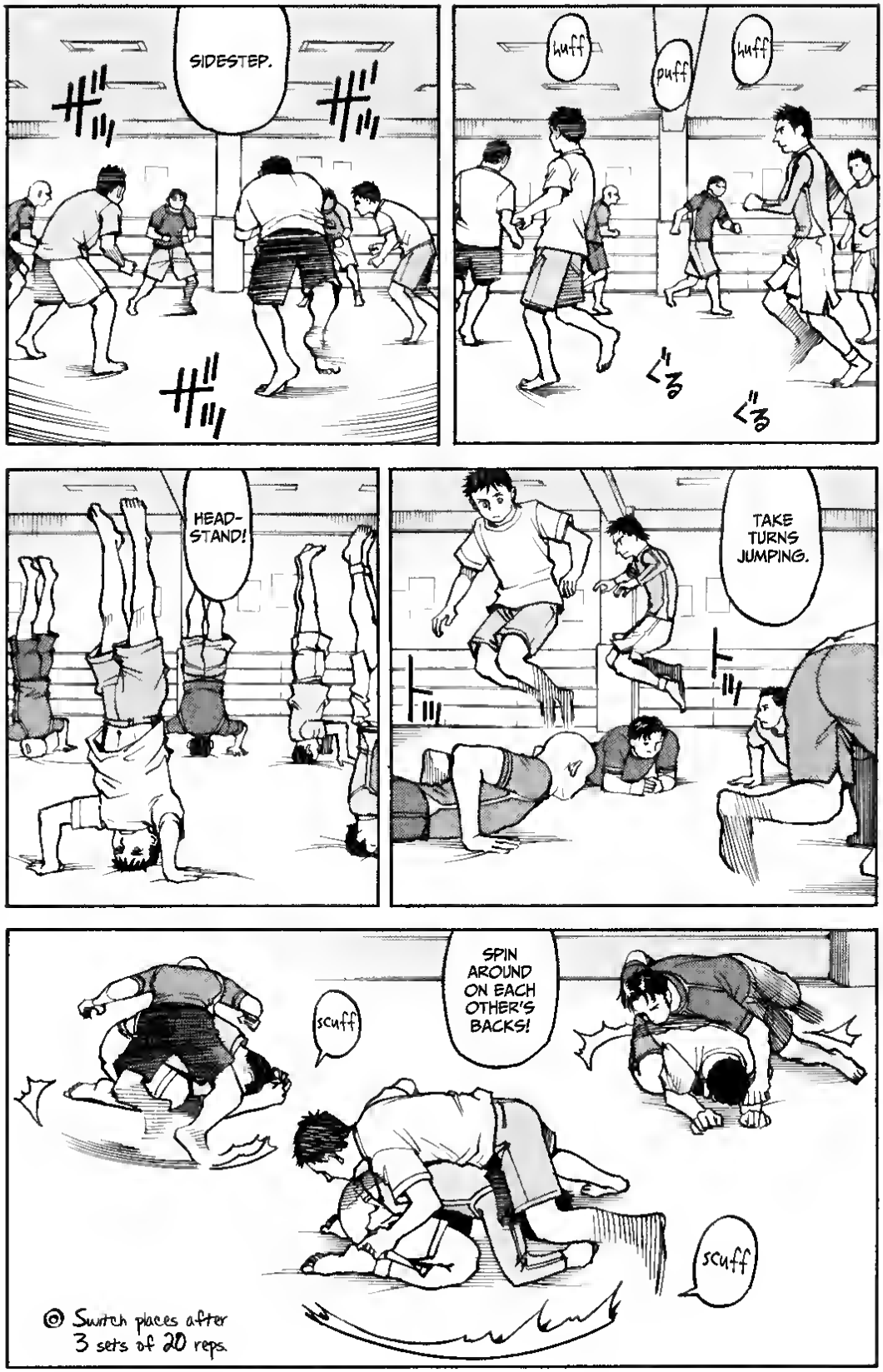
YOU GUYS ARE THE SAME AGE AND BOTH LIGHT-WEIGHTS...
...SO YOU CAN SEE WHY HE'D HAVE HIS EYE ON YOU, RIGHT?
KITAMURA WANTS TO GO PRO.
DON'T MIND HIM.
WHAT'S WITH *HIM?*
INSPIRE
It doesn't quite feel real to me.
Pro, huh ...?
I just want to have fun.
HMM ...
That's amaz-ing.
He's still in high school, but he already knows what he wants to do with his life...

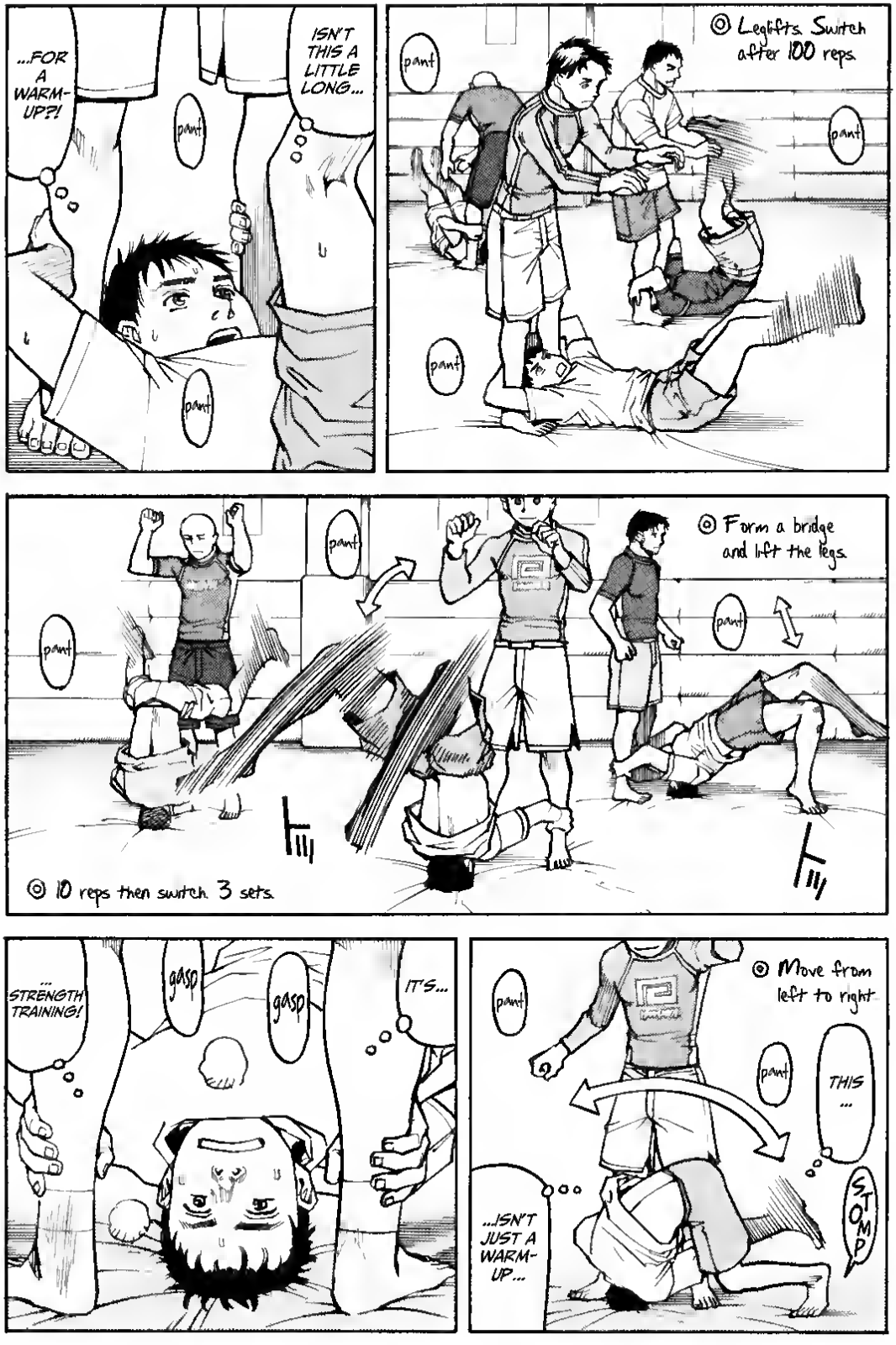

BOW!
THANK YOU!
OK, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY'S BASIC TRAINING.
MEDI-TATE!
HEY, KITAMURA, YOU STAYING FOR THE PRO TRAINING?
YEAH.
!

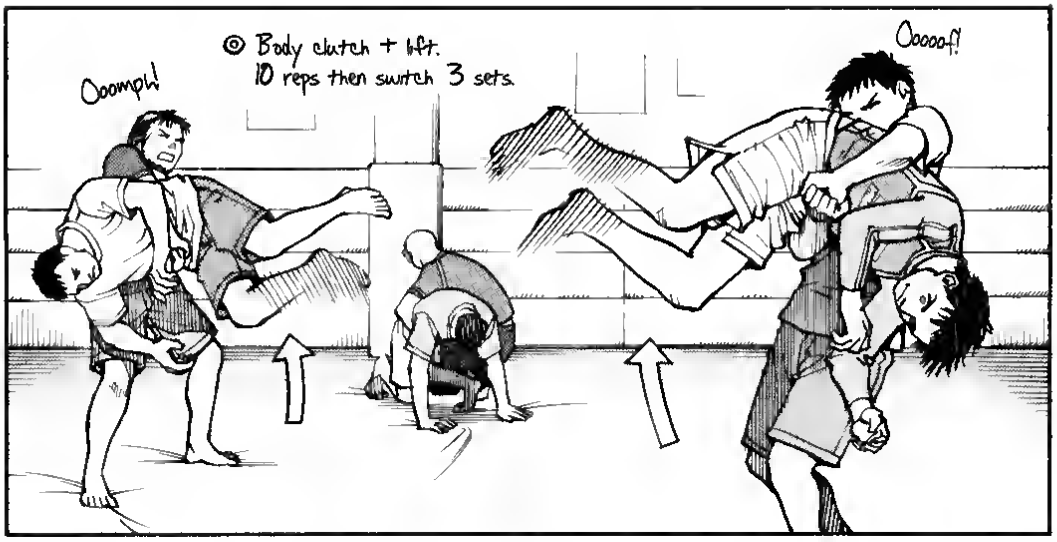
PISSED
Hmph!
Was planning to go home.
...
URA-SAWA,
I WANT TO DO THE PRO TRAINING, TOO.
OHHH!
WELL, DON'T HURT YOURSELF.
At 8:00 PM, the pros came in...
GOOD NIGHT.
HEY.
...as the regular guys left.

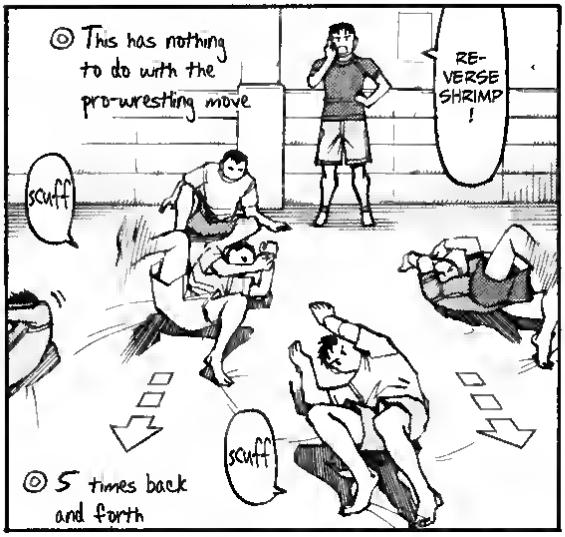
* A AND B ARE PROFESSIONAL FIGHTER CLASSES.

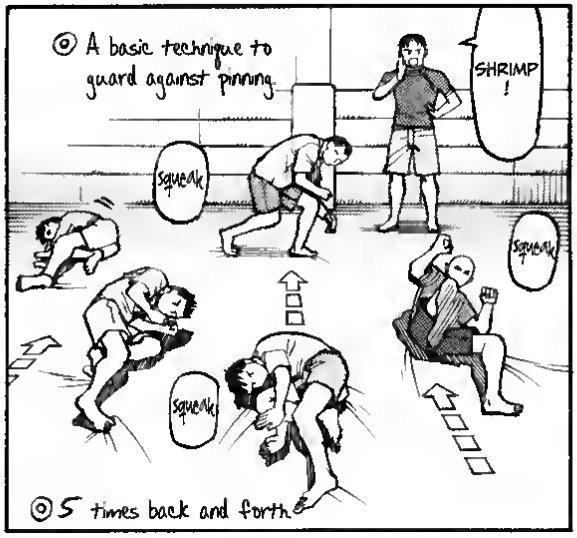
...who also does a lot of other promotions.
Then there's Tadashi Watanabe, Class-B* shooto middleweight,
Where's the boss tonight? Not here again?
The guy who leads the pro training sessions is Kenichiro Furuya...
...who also practices MMA.
Kazumasa Tamiya, a brown-belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu...
... Class-A* shooto welter-weight.
I wonder what sort of training pros do.
SIX TONIGHT, HUH?
OK, LET'S DO A LITTLE RUNNING FIRST.
And Shinji Urasawa ...
... Class-B shooto bantam-weight.
What?
...two amateurs.
Tch!
And tonight ...

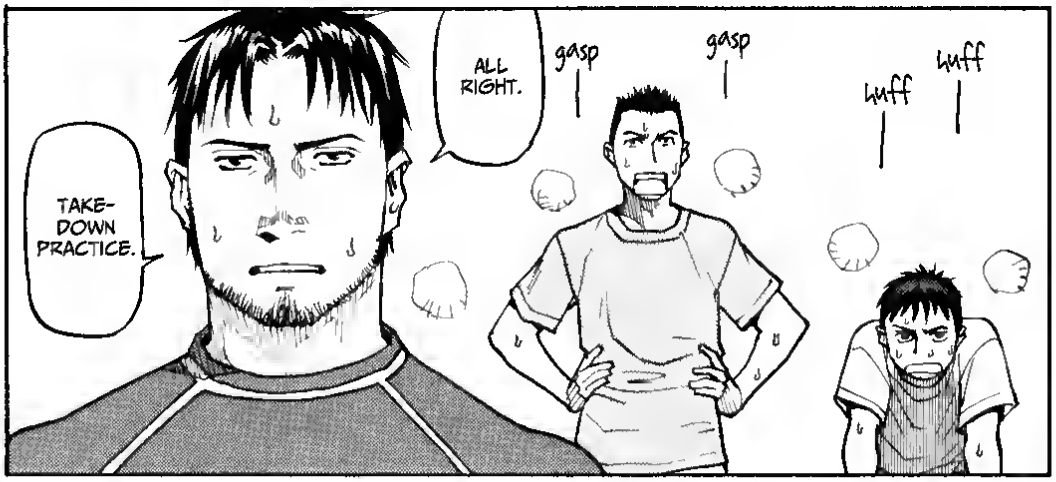

SIDESTEP.
huff
puff
huff
HEAD-STAND!
TAKE TURNS JUMPING.
SPIN AROUND ON EACH OTHER'S BACKS!
scuff
scuff
◎ Switch places after 3 sets of 20 reps.


...FOR A WARM-UP?!
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE LONG...
pant
pant
pant
pant
pant
◎ Legifts. Switch after 100 reps.
◎ Form a bridge and lift the legs.
◎ 10 reps then switch. 3 sets.
...STRENGTH TRAINING!
gasp
gasp
IT'S...
◎ Move from left to right
THIS ...
STOMP
...ISN'T JUST A WARM-UP...


◎ Body clutch + lift.
10 reps then switch 3 sets.
Ooomph!
Ooooof!

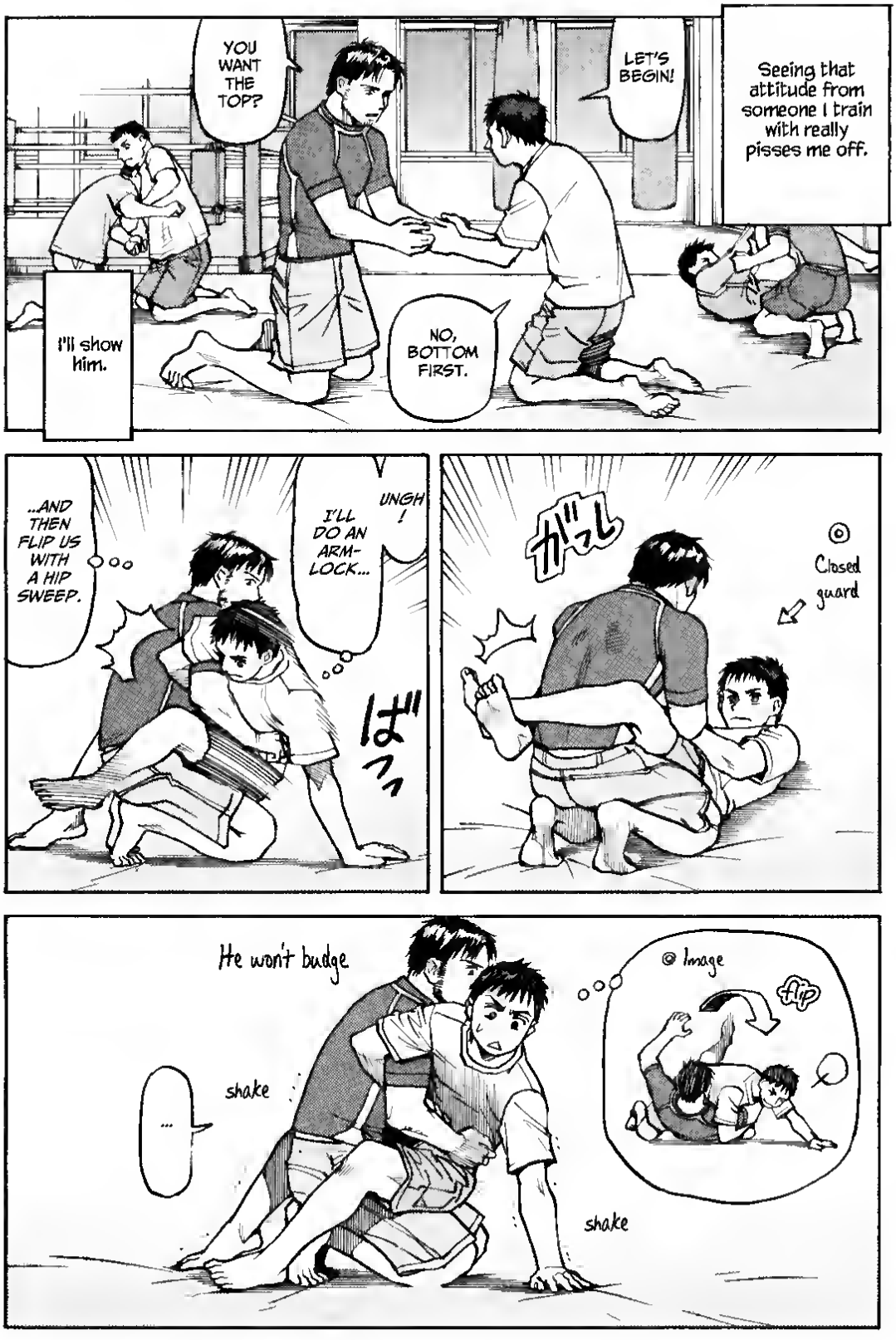

◎ This has nothing to do with the pro-wrestling move
RE-VERSE SHRIMP!
scuff
scuff
◎ 5 times back and forth


◎ A basic technique to guard against pinning
SHRIMP!
squeak
squeak
squeak
◎ 5 times back and forth

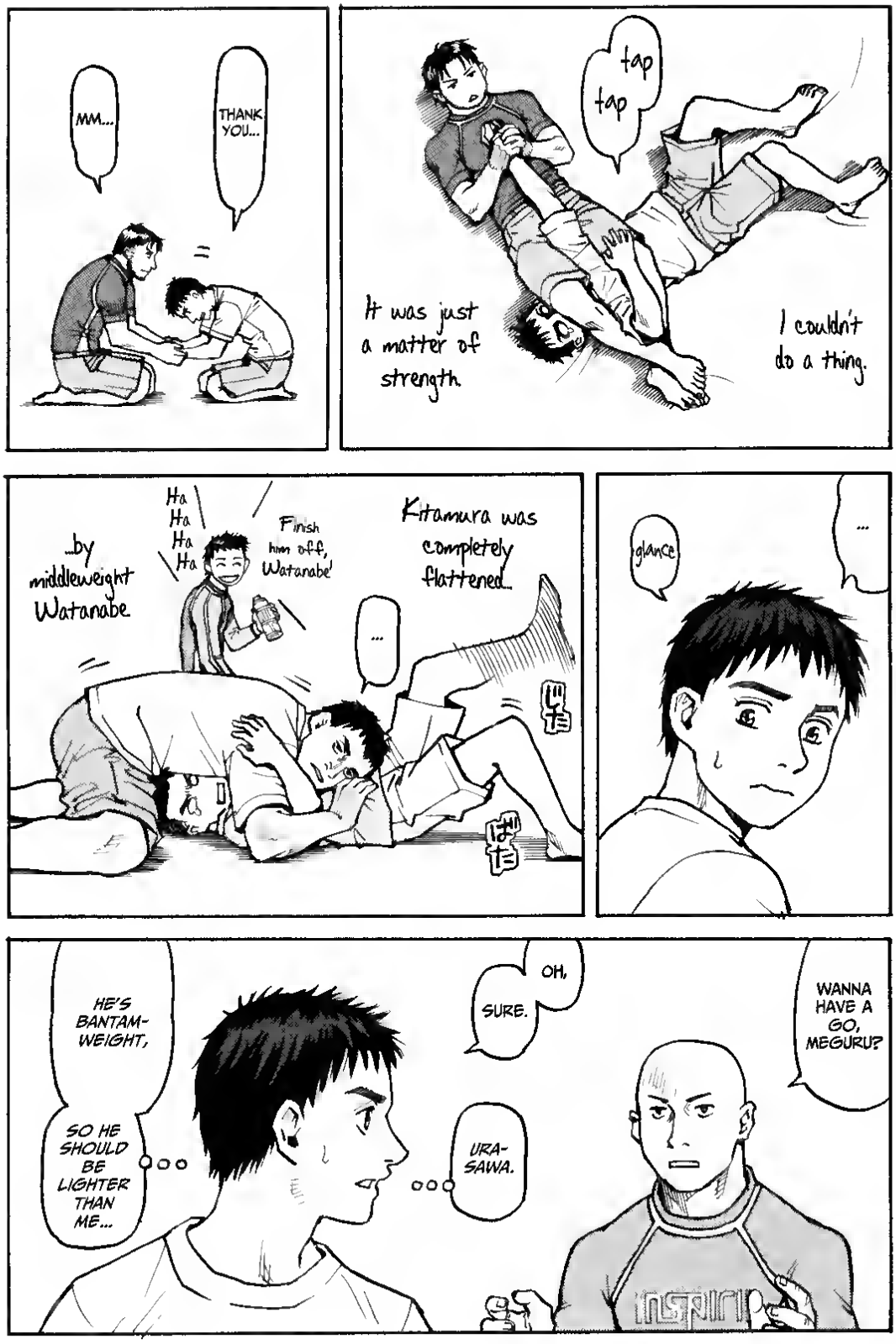

TAKE-DOWN PRACTICE.
ALL RIGHT.
gasp
gasp
huff
huff

Takedown practice is very repetitive.
100 double-leg take-downs.
◎ Throw on the 10th time.
Hiya!
100 reps.
huff puff
Bear hug.
◎ Lift on the 10th time.
Oomph!
100 single-leg take-downs.
OK.
ONE MINUTE BREAK.
pant pant gasp gasp
It had already been an hour.
Oooof!
And lift on the 10th time.

gasp
gasp
twitch
Spa ...?
PIN SPARRING.
EACH ROUND IS 5 MINUTES WITH A ONE MINUTE BREAK.
NEXT UP IS KNEELING.
beep
glance
WHOA ...
SPAR-RING ...?
WOBBLE
drag drag
PISSED OFF
I'll keep this up if it kills me
Forget about loser boy there
Hmph!


YOU WANT THE TOP?
LET'S BEGIN!
Seeing that attitude from someone I train with really pisses me off.
I'll show him.
NO, BOTTOM FIRST.
...AND THEN FLIP US WITH A HIP SWEEP.
I'LL DO AN ARM-LOCK...
UNGH!
ばっ
ガッ
Closed guard
He won't budge
shake
...
Image
flip
shake

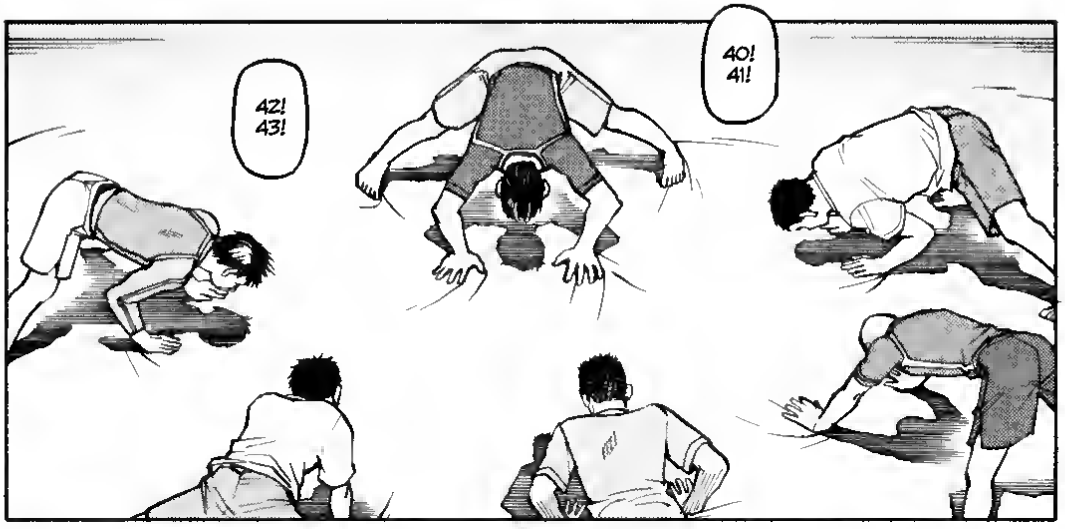
I'LL JUST TURN ON MY SIDE AND WRIGGLE OUT!
FINE.
ばっ
HE GOT MY KNEE DOWN LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!
WAH!
OK, here we go
push
I CAN'T MOVE!
ssssshhh
HEAVY!
Flattened
HE'S JUST USING ORDINARY MOVES AND YET...
push
ばた ばた
bend
HE'S GOING SO SLOW AND YET...
OK, mounted
ぽふっ


MM...
THANK YOU...
tap tap
It was just a matter of strength.
I couldn't do a thing.
...by middleweight Watanabe.
Ha Ha Ha Ha
Finish him off, Watanabe!
Kitamura was completely flattened...
...
glance
...
HE'S BANTAM-WEIGHT,
SO HE SHOULD BE LIGHTER THAN ME...
URA-SAWA.
OH, SURE.
WANNA HAVE A GO, MEGURU?

SURE.
CAN I BE ON TOP THIS TIME?
Guillotine choke
Instantaneous
Triangle choke
Also instanta-neous
tap
tap
I WON'T LET HIM GET ME THIS TIME.
We did 8 rounds of sparring, about 48 minutes.
Tamiya got me with a gentle RNC.
Hahahaha, you're so weak, Meguru!

STRENGTH TRAINING NOW?
WHAT?
TIME FOR STRENGTH TRAINING.
OK.
Strength training...
...is just what it sounds like. It's boring, repetitive practice to build muscle and endurance.
わっせ
わっせ
わっせ
KEEP YOUR ASS UP!
Aieee!
Wipaaa!
HORSE-RIDING NEXT!
わっし
わっし

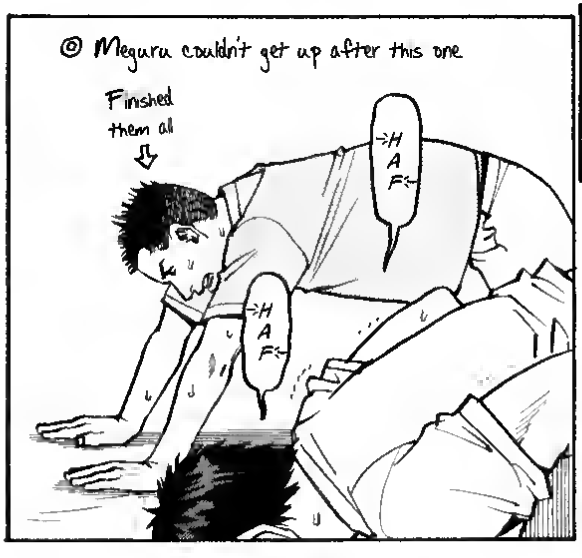
◎ Neck, front
LEGS STRAIGHT!
Nnnnngh..
◎ Neck, back
Isometrics!
THERE ARE SIX OF US, SO...
OK, LAST ONE...
WIDE PUSH-UPS.
180 TOTAL...
THAT'S...
3 SETS OF 60.


42!
43!
40!
41!

45!

glance

44!
HNNNNGH!


◎ Megaru couldn't get up after this one
Finished them all
HAF
HAF

I won't lose!
Damn it!

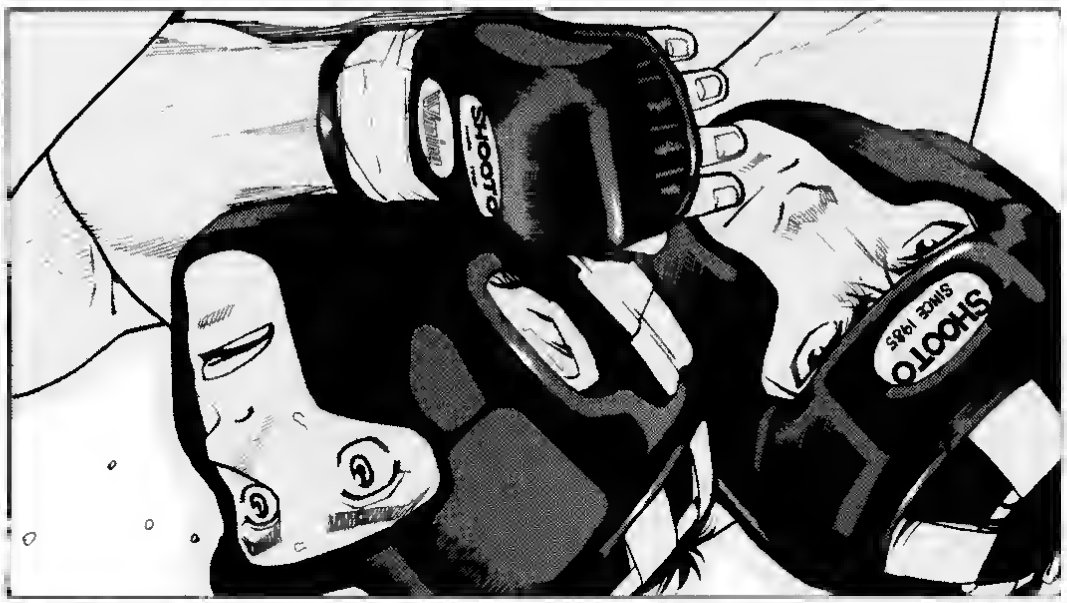
MEDI-TATE!
ALL RIGHT ...
...
IT'S TOO MUCH.
BOW!
ドゴ
...
We've gotta clean up!
Hey!
THIS KIND OF TRAINING'D KILL ME.
slump

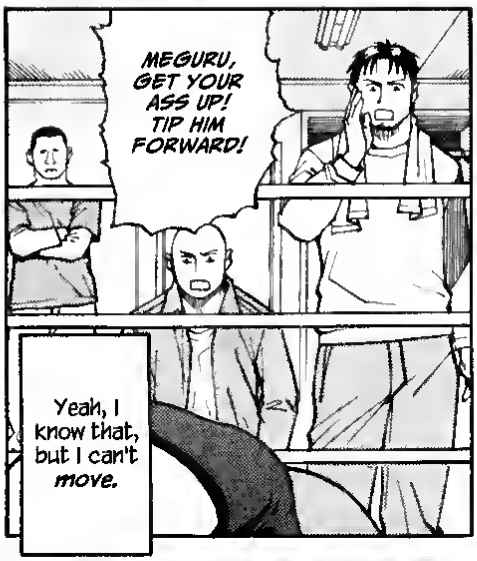
MEGU-RU.
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF TRAINING WITH THE PROS?
...
...YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET STRONGER.
BUT IF YOU DO THIS...
I COULDN'T DO A THING...
OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T.
WITHOUT STRENGTH, YOUR MOVES ARE USELESS,
AND IF YOU ARE STRONG, THEN YOU CAN EASILY BREAK YOUR OPPO-NENT'S MOVES.
IF YOU WANT TO BE A PRO...
...YOU'VE GOTTA DO STRENGTH TRAINING, NO MATTER HOW BORING IT IS.
I SEE...
THAT'S THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRO AND AMATEUR.
IT'S A DIFFER-ENCE IN STRENGTH!

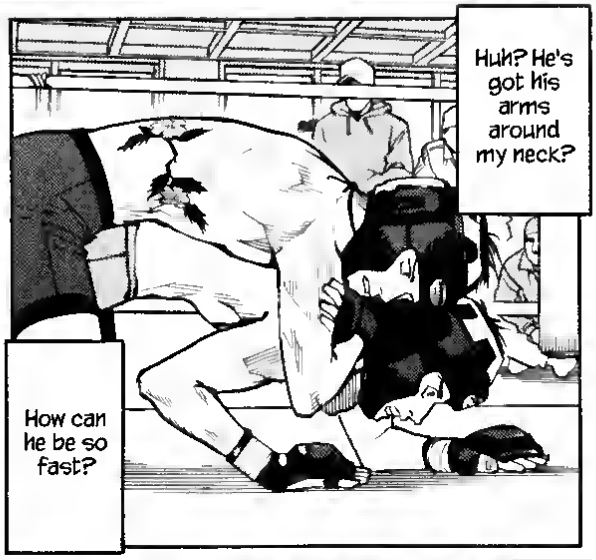
...BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE MOVES DOWN...
WELL, YOU CAN BE TOTALLY PUMPED...
WHICH IS IT?!
...
...WILL I GET STRONG-ER?!
THEN IF I RUN A LOT AND LIFT WEIGHTS AND STUFF...
...STARTS OUT LIKE THIS AND THEN...
OK... THE HIP SWEEP...
ギュッ
どんっ
THERE!

THEN I HOOK MY LEG OVER...
THUMP
AND THEN A QUICK SWITCH!
ER... THE BODY CLUTCH STARTS OFF...
...LIKE THIS...
HEY, MEGURU!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT! QUIT MAKING SO MUCH NOISE!
IF YOU DON'T PRACTICE NOW, YOU MIGHT MESS UP AND END UP GETTING DUMPED...
H-HEY, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
OH. WELL, I GUESS YOU ARE AT THAT AGE... OF COURSE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SEX...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
DON'T WORRY. I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.
...

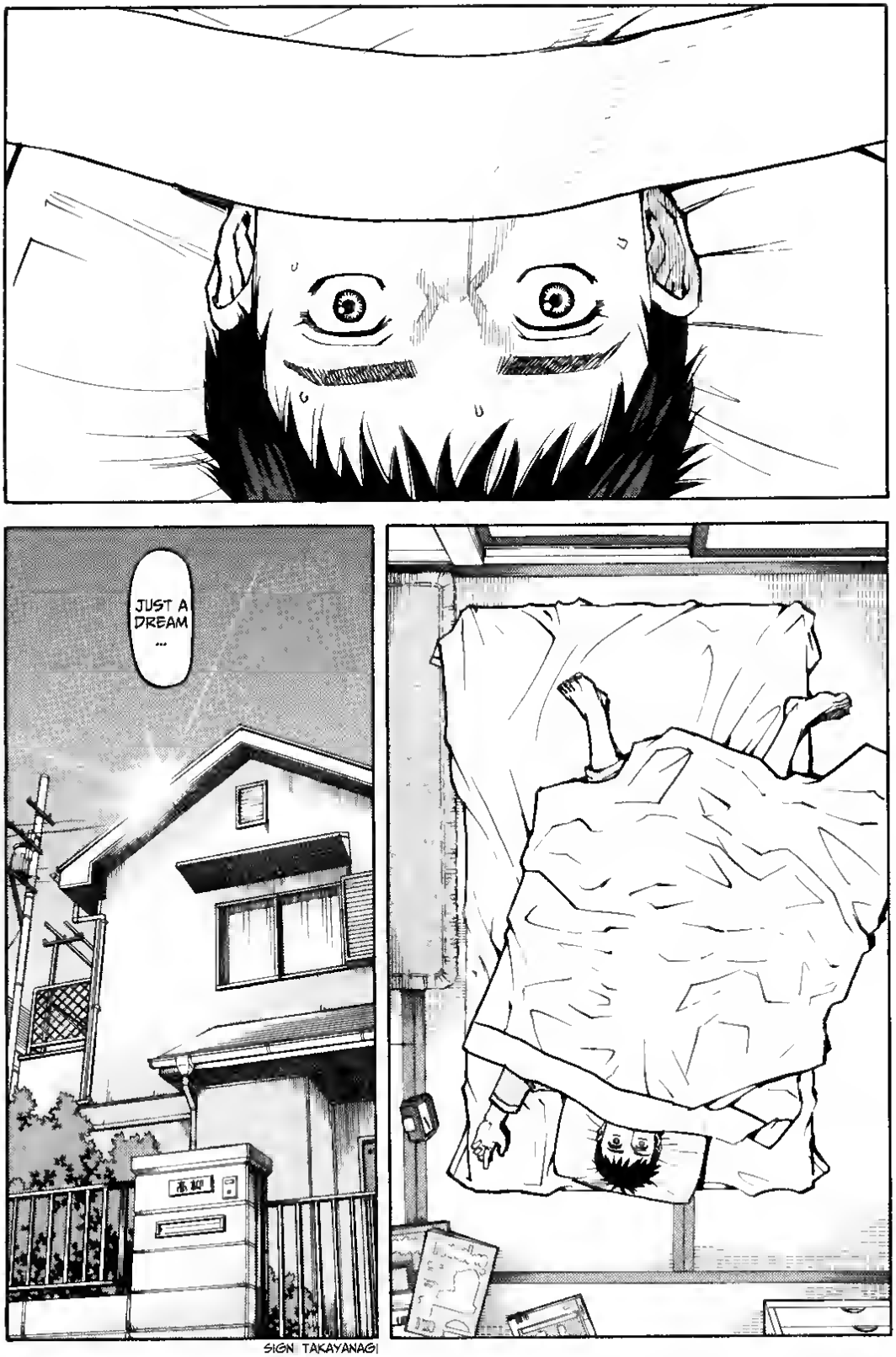
Chapter 5 | Okappore


SHOOTO
SINCE 1985


MEGURU, GET YOUR ASS UP! TIP HIM FORWARD!
Yeah, I know that, but I can't *move.*

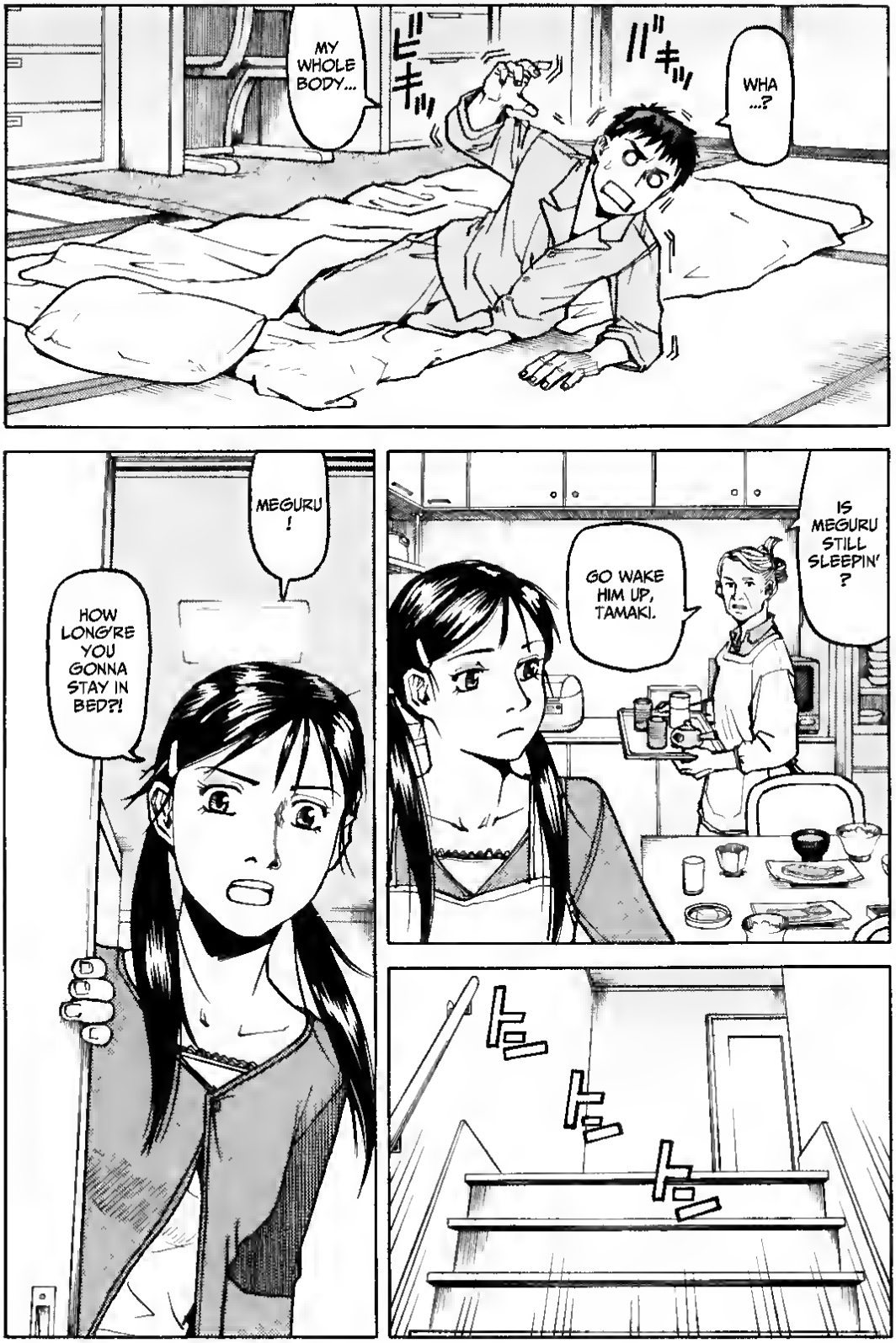

Huh? He's got his arms around my neck?
How can he be so fast?

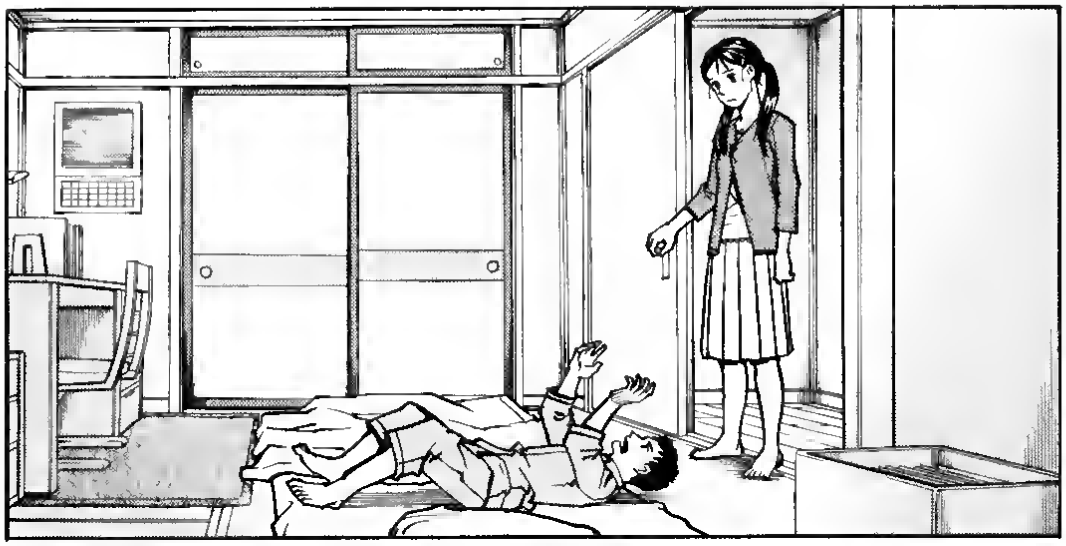
Wait, what?
My vision's going pink...
SHOOTO

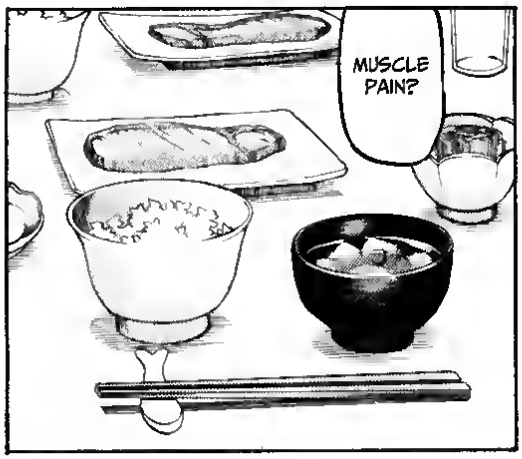


SIGN TAKAYANAGI

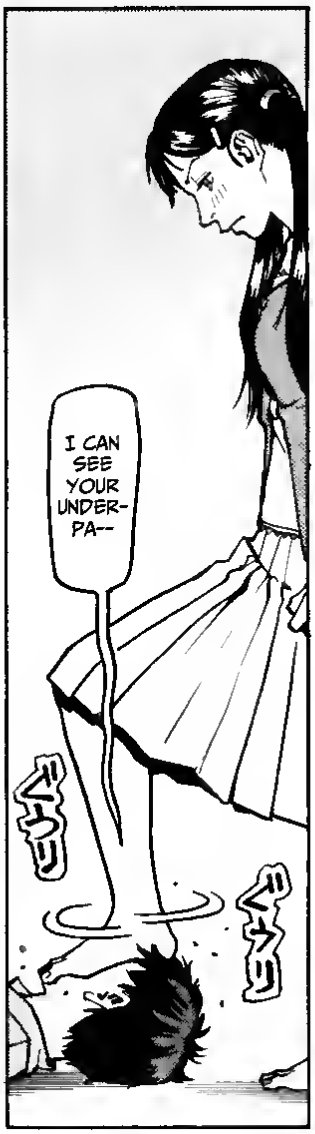
Was the reason I didn't tap ...
...that it was just too galling to be beaten by an old friend?
I haven't seen Takashi since then.
I don't know what happened, but he really seemed like a totally different person.
...
ビキ!!
OH.
I'D BETTER GET UP.
むくっ


MY WHOLE BODY...
WHA ...?
MEGURU !
HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA STAY IN BED?!
GO WAKE HIM UP, TAMAKI.
IS MEGURU STILL SLEEPIN' ?
トン トン トン




MUSCLE PAIN?

YOU TRAINED WITH PROS YESTER-DAY?
Urrrrrrg——


I CAN SEE YOUR UNDER-PA--
ぐりぐり
ぐりぐり

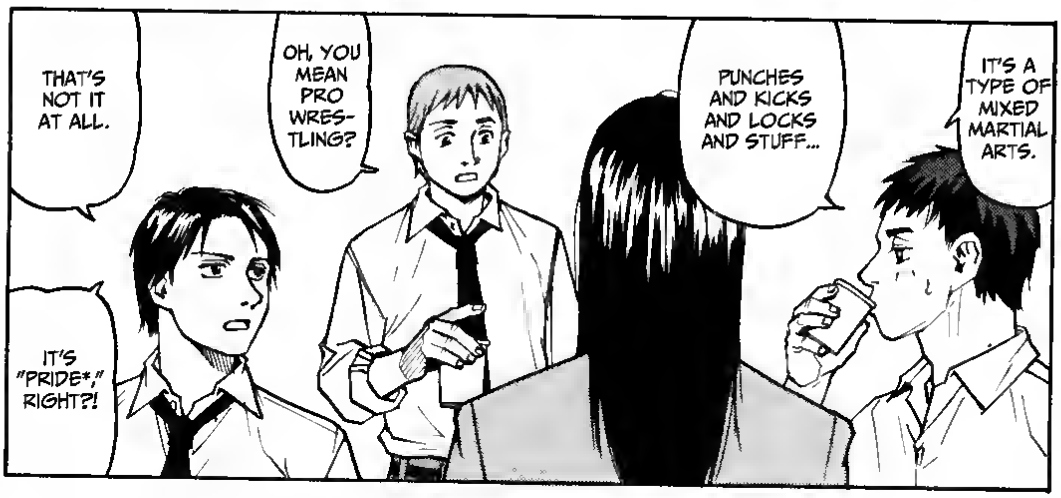
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SIS...

...IT'LL BE A WEIGHT OFFA MY SHOULDERS.
ONCE YOU'RE GROWN UP, MEGURU ...
THAT'S HOW A BOY SHOULD BE.
WHAT'S FUN ABOUT THAT?
And she never had gotten used to living in Tokyo.
My grandma still spoke with a Tohoku accent*.
...
SEE YOU LATER.
She always liked to say you should be able to live wherever you go...
...but she herself just seemed to want to return to the town where my grandpa was buried.

*THE TOHOKU ACCENT IS MAINLY SPOKEN IN THE NORTHEAST REGION OF JAPAN. IT CARRIES THE STEREOTYPE OF AN UNEDUCATED POOR PERSON WHO COMES FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE, WHICH IS WHY MOST TOHOKU SPEAKERS TRY TO HIDE THEIR ACCENTS WHEN LIVING IN BIG CITIES SUCH AS TOKYO

SIGN: ART ROOM

I'm not gonna go to the gym today.
HUH?
CRICK
My whole body aches.
CRACK
...
WOW, WHAT A SUR-PRISE.
YOU DON'T USUALLY STAY THIS LATE.
...
UH...
TAJIMA ?

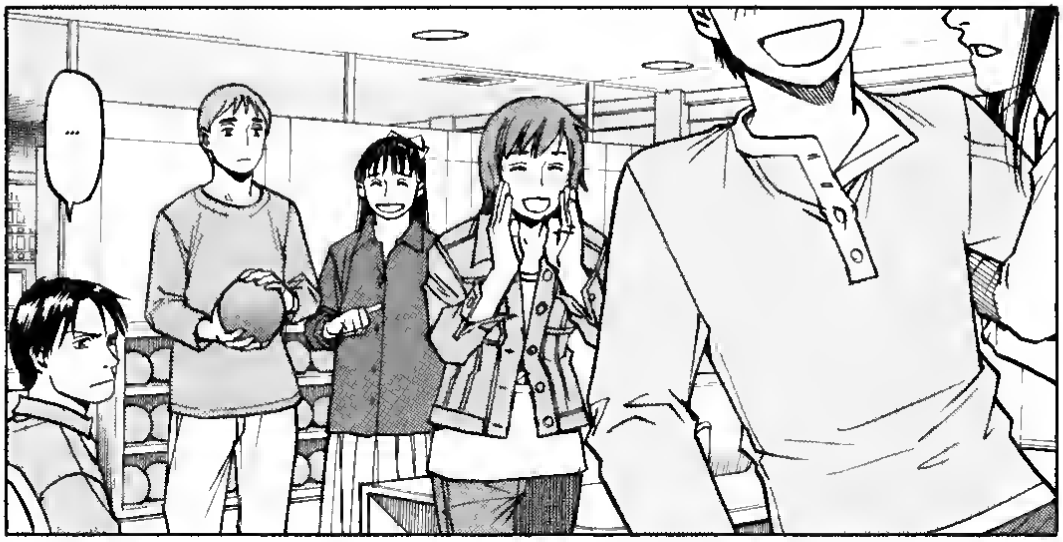

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
OH, YOU MEAN PRO WRES-TLING?
PUNCHES AND KICKS AND LOCKS AND STUFF...
IT'S A TYPE OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.
IT'S "PRIDE*," RIGHT?!

*A NOW-DEFUNCT MMA ORGANIZATION BASED IN JAPAN THAT USED TO HOLD MANY HIGH-PROFILE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS EVENTS

YEAH, I'M SUR-PRISED.
BUT YOU'RE NOT ALL BULKED UP OR ANYTHING.
THAT THING THEY ALWAYS HAVE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.
NO,
WHAT, THE MIKI IMAI SONG?
WHAT THING?

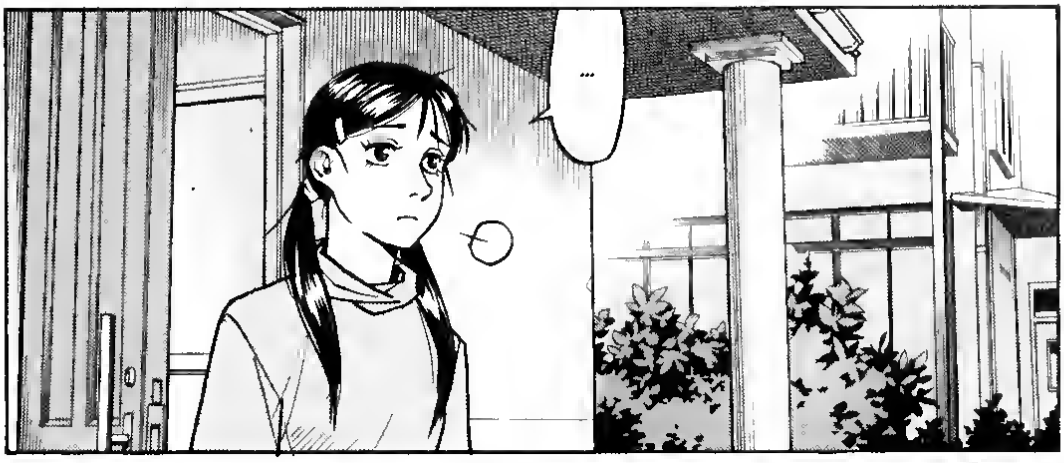
YOU ALWAYS JUST SAT IN THE CORNER WORKING...
...AND THEN LEFT AS SOON AS CLUB WAS OVER.
OH, HEY.
ARE YOU FREE TOMOR-ROW?
WE'RE ALL GOING BOWLING IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH US.
IT'S OK, RIGHT?
UH... SURE.
Does... Does this mean...
I'm popular?

パカァ
アアーン
YAAAAAAY!
GO, MEGURU!
THAT'S THREE STRIKES IN A ROW!
Yeah, well...
Just a lucky break... Oh!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SQUEEZE

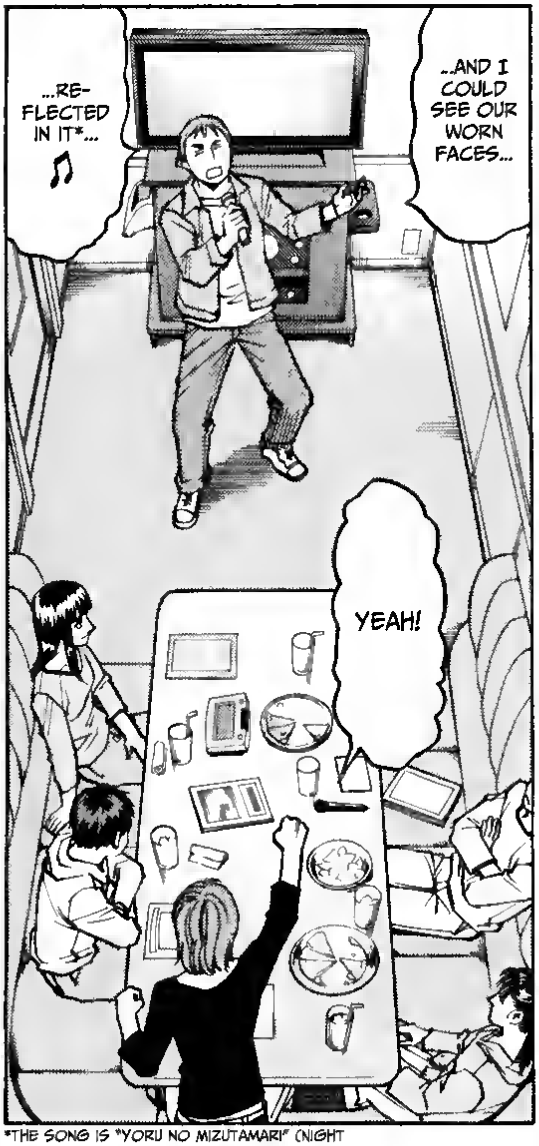

...

NAH, I PROMISED MY FRIENDS FROM ART CLUB I'D GO OUT WITH THEM.
HUH? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE GYM TODAY?

LATER.



SIGN: KARAOKE



*THE SONG IS "YORU NO MIZUTAMARI" (NIGHT PUDDLE) BY OMOKAGE LUCKY HOLE.

*"HAPPY MATERIAL" IS THE OPENING THEME TO THE ANIME NEGIMA!
HUH ?!
WHOA !
bathump
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SING?
UM...
MAYBE "HAPPY MATERIAL*" ...
OH MY GOD, YOU GUYS!
HE'S ACTUALLY REALLY BUILT!
WHAT?! IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL A BOXER'S BUILD?!
Shit.
I'm finally popular!

...
I always knew this day would come.
Spring has finally come for me.
Soooorry. Did I go too far?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?
WANNA GO FOR COFFEE?
HUH? WHERE'D TAJIMA GO?
CALL HER?
I'M NOT GETTING THROUGH

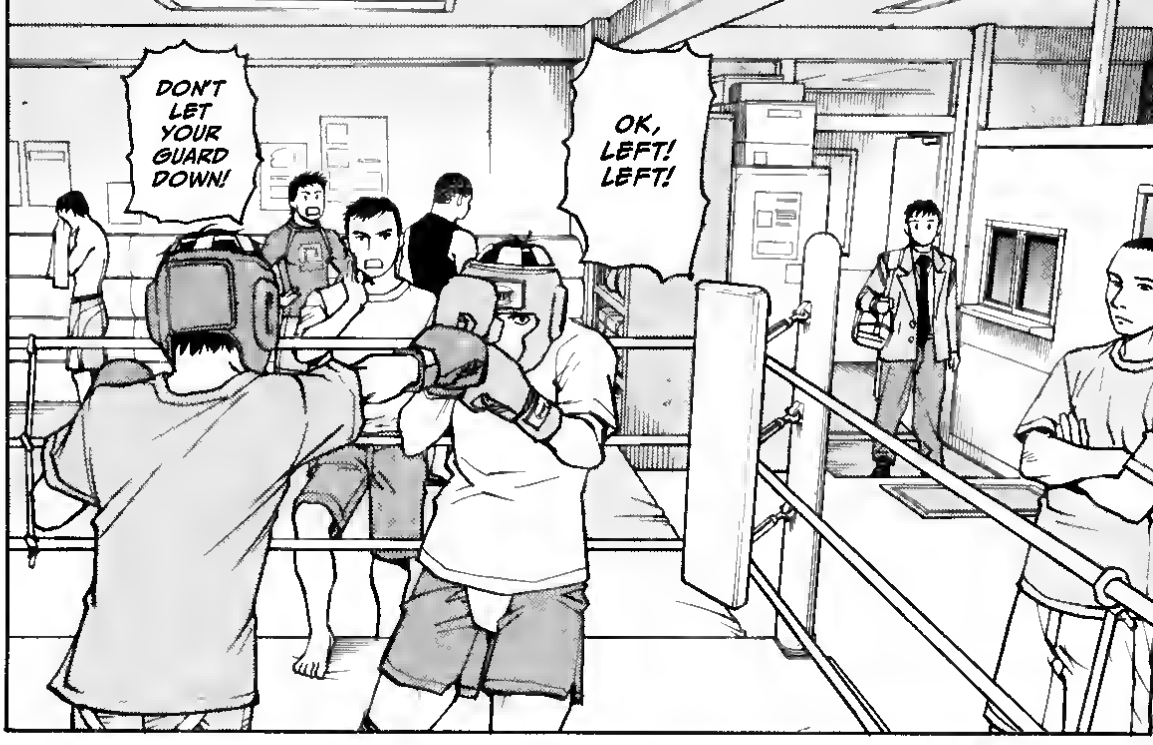
...
YOU'D BETTER GO AFTER MEGURU, MICCHI.
giggle giggle
OH, MEGU-RU...
OH, OK, I'LL GO AROUND THE OTHER WAY, THEN.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER.
SHE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE.
!
art

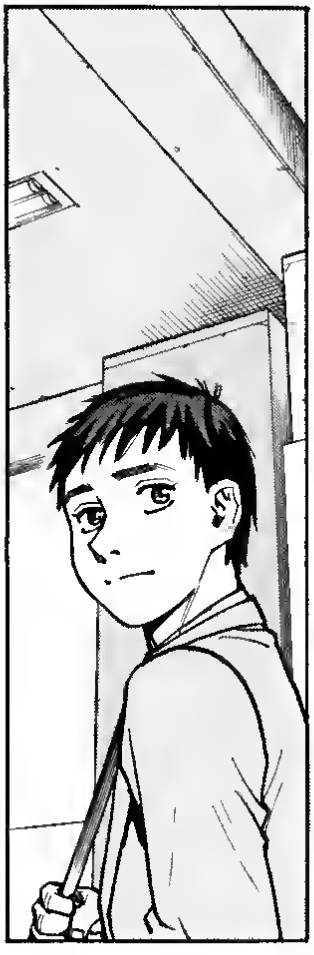
...?!
LAZA
WHAAAAA?!

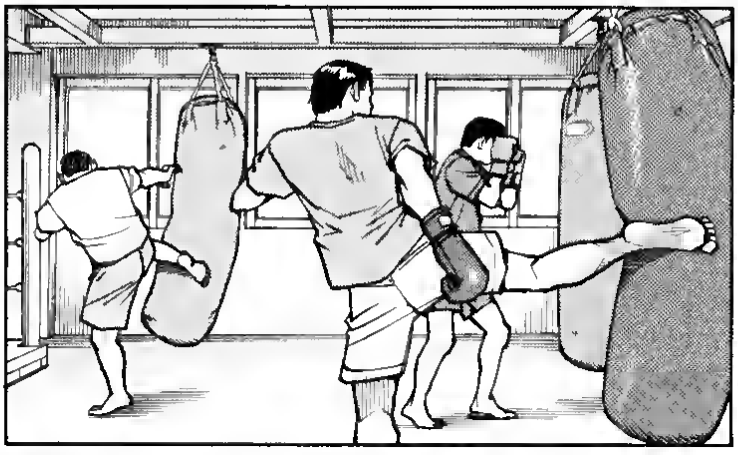
smoooooooch
ばっ
HOTEL
アリオン
HOTEL RARA
HOTEL WHITE
Le Paul Bara
CLAP
Shh!

DOES EVERYONE KNOW?
YEAH.
THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
SORRY, MEGURU...
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU...
WHY'RE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
ER...
WELL, I'M IN THE ART CLUB, TOO...
SORRY, MAN.
...
YOU'RE A PRETTY DECENT GUY, AREN'T YOU?
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT A QUESTION...?
MICHIO...
CALL ME MICCHI.

So...
Tajima had been dating the head of the art club, and when things weren't going well for them...
Itō Yokedo
Remy
What is this exactly?
Tully's Coffee Brew
...she used me to try and make him jealous.
I don't know if you could call it a broken heart.


DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
OK, LEFT! LEFT!

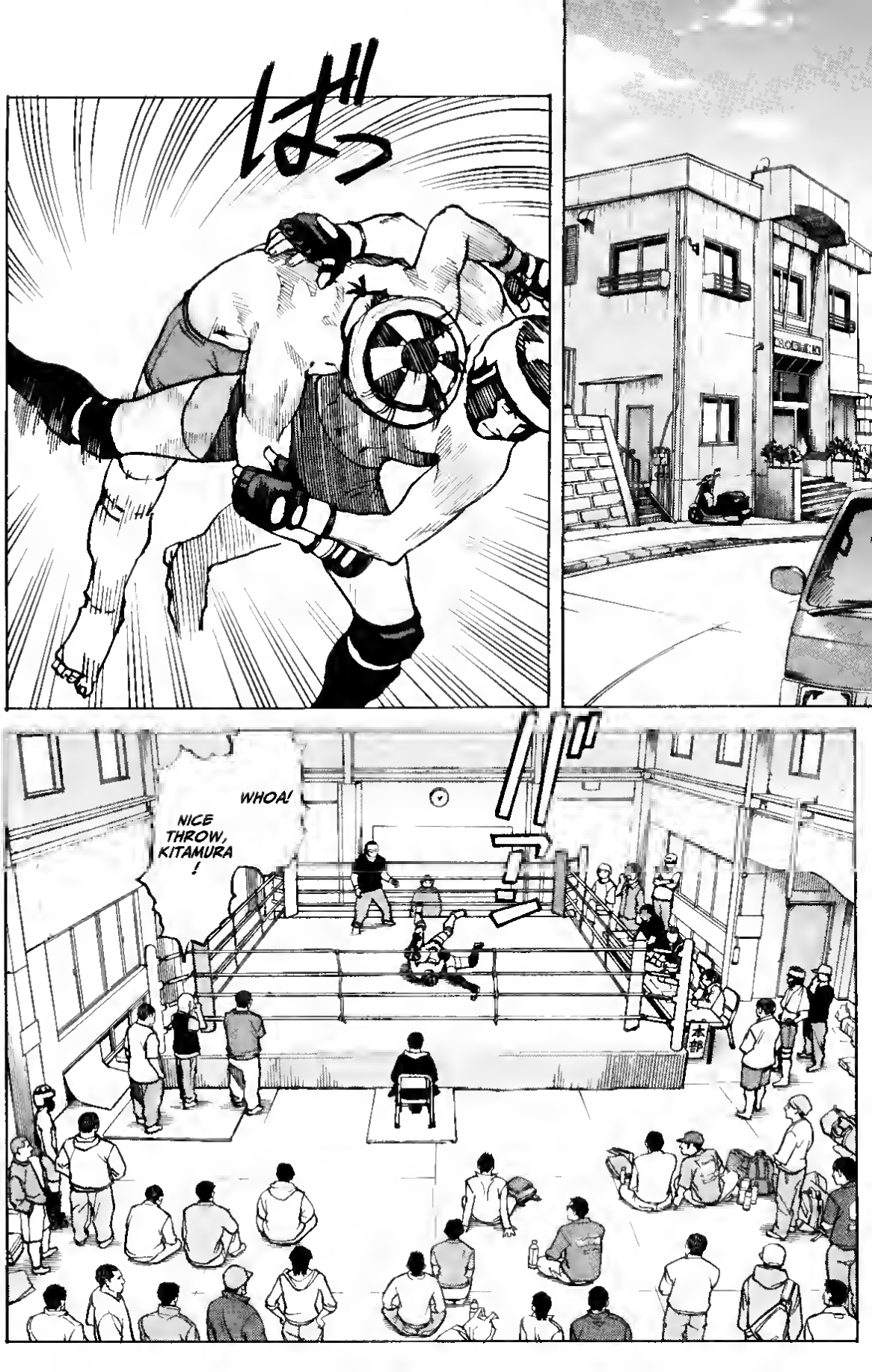




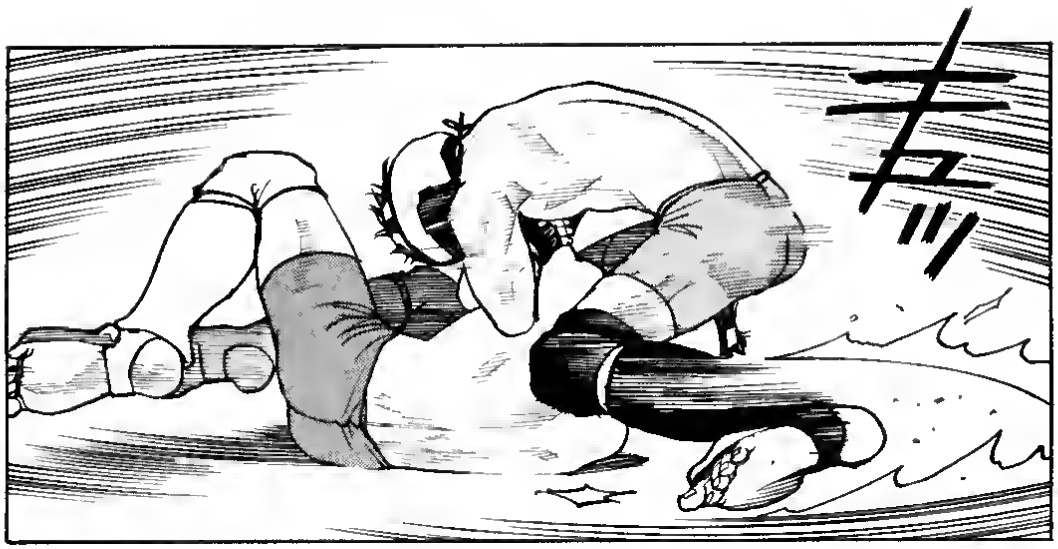
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
HEY, MEGURU.
HOWDY.
OUTDOOR
WHAT'S THIS?
AND I WANT TO STAY FOR PRO TRAINING TONIGHT!
YOU GETTING SERIOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU OK NOW?
I HAVEN'T BEEN FEELING TOO GOOD...
YEAH, I'M FINE.
GO FOR IT, MAN.
110キ
WOW.
110キ
110キ
I'M AIMING FOR FIRST PLACE IN THE NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTO COMPETITION!
I'M TOTALLY SERIOUS!

GRRR ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAT ME FIRST.
Lost all their sparring matches
WHAAAT ?
I DUNNO WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I BET THAT ATTITUDE WON'T LAST PAST TODAY.
TCH!
ボカッ
YEAH, RIGHT. YOU CAN'T EVEN DO A HUNDRED PUSH-UPS.
I'M GONNA GET FIRST PLACE BEFORE YOU DO!
JUST YOU WATCH!
fwip
YEAH, YEAH.
LET'S SEE *YOU* WIN, THEN.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU CAN DO A *THOUSAND* PUSH-UPS...
...IF YOU CAN'T WIN A MATCH!
COME ON, YOU TWO. PRACTICE IS STARTING.

Chapter 6 | Meguru and Takashi's Second Matches


しゅっ
WHOA!
NICE THROW, KITAMURA!

THERE'S STILL TIME, KITAMURA! GO FOR A SUBMISSION!
... TOP ... AND ... SIDE.
ISAMI
REVERSE SHRIMP, SHITAYAMA! REVERSE SHRIMP!
MOVE IT!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP DOWN THERE, SHITA-YAMA!
THERE!
はっ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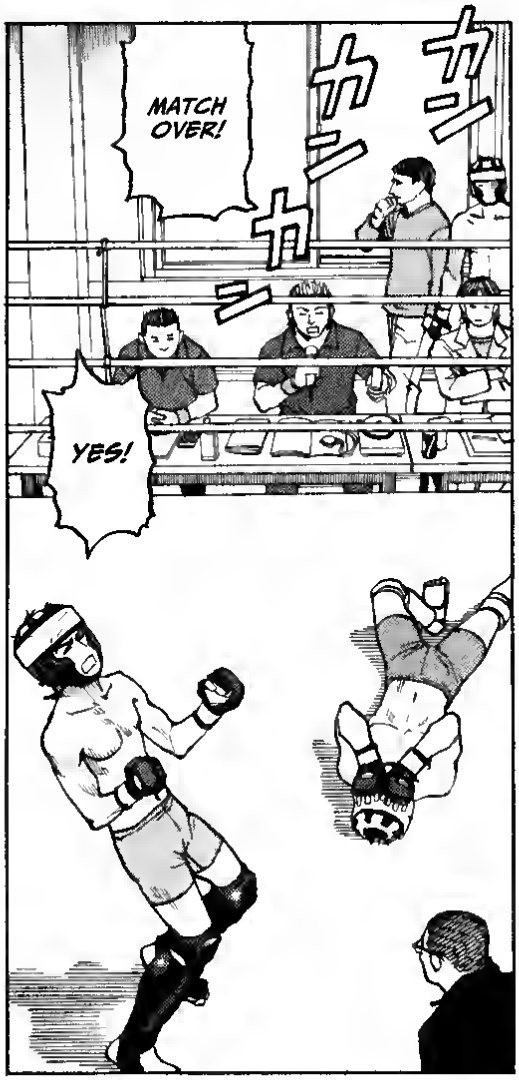
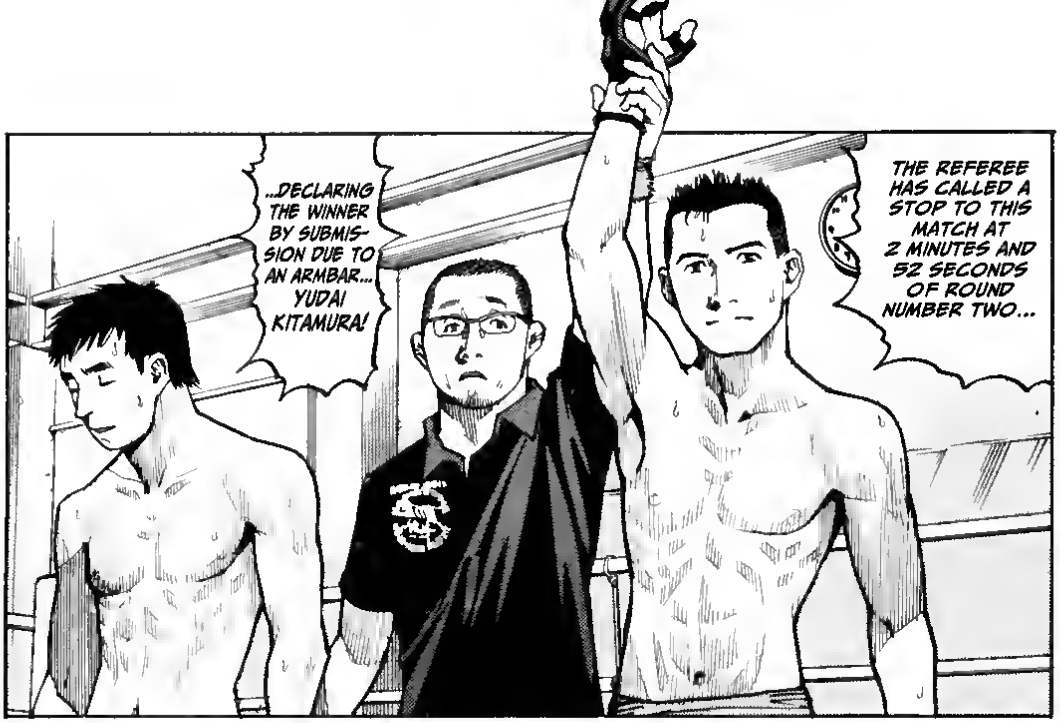

MATCH OVER!
カン
カン
カン
YES!

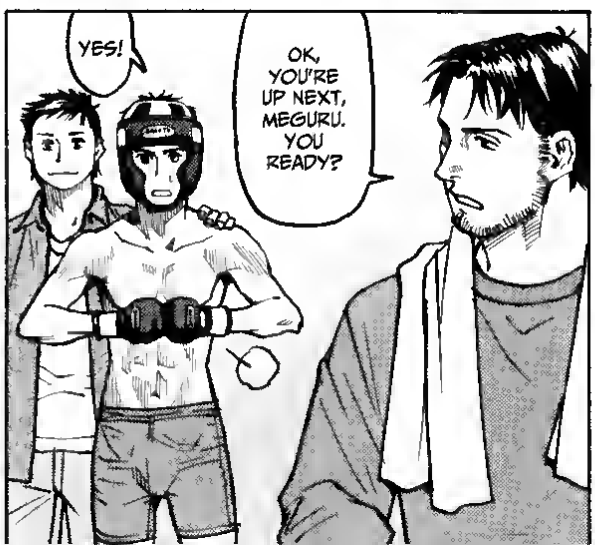
ばっ

STOP!


THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH AT 2 MINUTES AND 52 SECONDS OF ROUND NUMBER TWO...
...DECLARING THE WINNER BY SUBMIS-SION DUE TO AN ARMBAR... YUDAI KITAMURA!

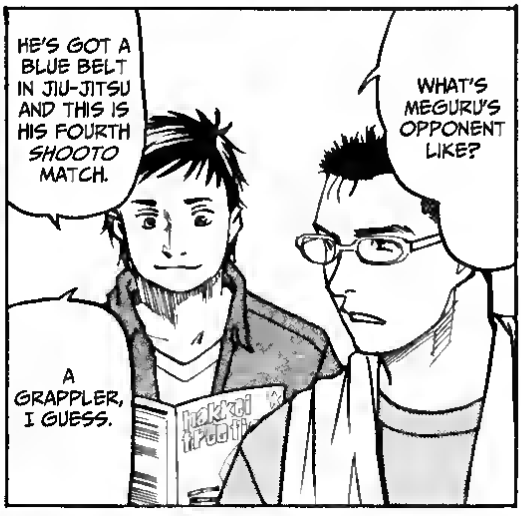
MATCH 12, LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, 2 ROUNDS!
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
SHOOTO
...MEGURU TAKAYANAGI!

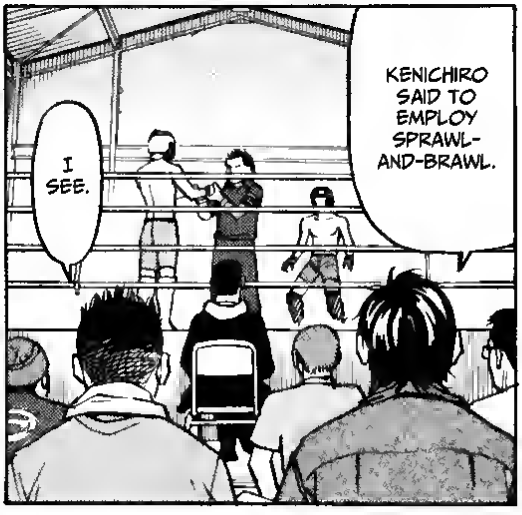
YEAH !
YOU ALMOST RAN OUT OF TIME, BUT YOU DID IT!


YES!
OK, YOU'RE UP NEXT, MEGURU. YOU READY?

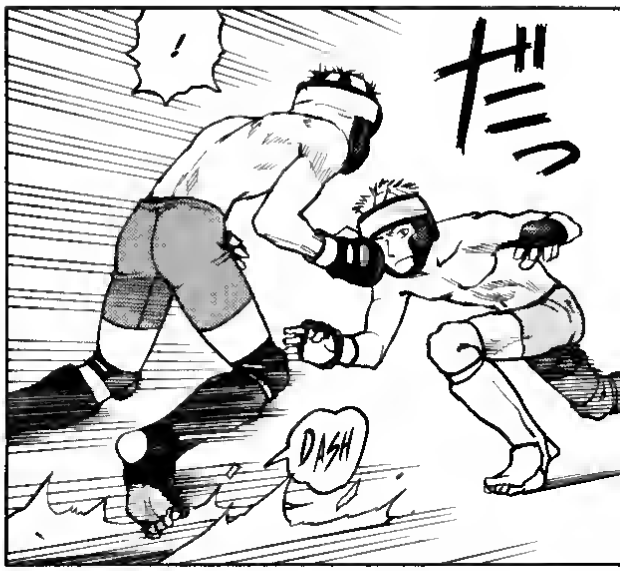
AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM TEAM YOSHIZAWA ...
...KEIICHI KOMIYAMA!

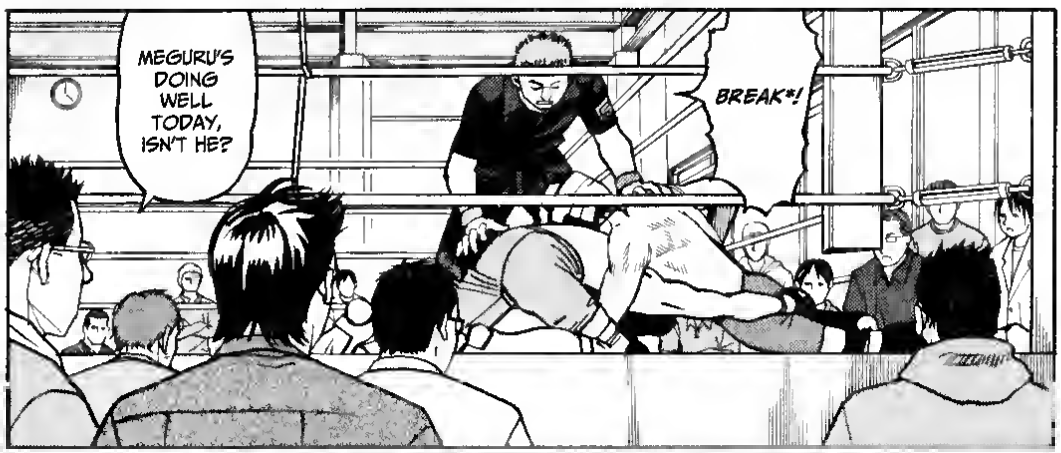
FIGHT!
BAP

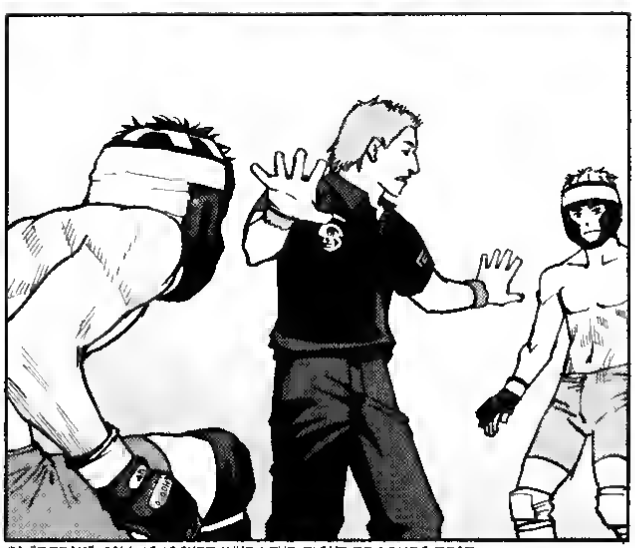

WHAT'S MEGURU'S OPPONENT LIKE?
HE'S GOT A BLUE BELT IN JIU-JITSU AND THIS IS HIS FOURTH SHOOTO MATCH.
A GRAPPLER, I GUESS.


KENICHIRO SAID TO EMPLOY SPRAWL-AND-BRAWL.
I SEE.

MEGURU! NICE INSIDE LEG KICK!
WHOA!
アーン
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, KOMIYAMA! GET CLOSER!
THAT'S IT, MEGURU!
GO AROUND TO THE LEFT!



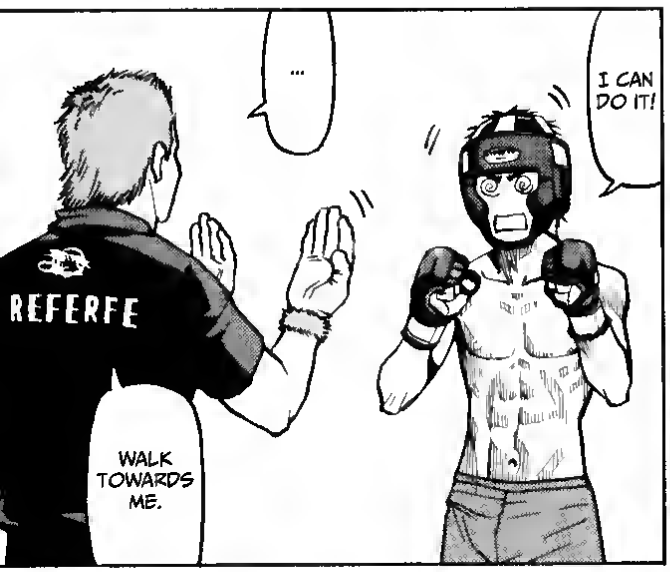




*A "BREAK" CALL IS ISSUED WHEN THE FIGHT BECOMES DEAD-LOCKED. THE FIGHTERS MUST STOP FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY AND GET BACK TO THEIR STANDING POSITION ON A "BREAK" CALL

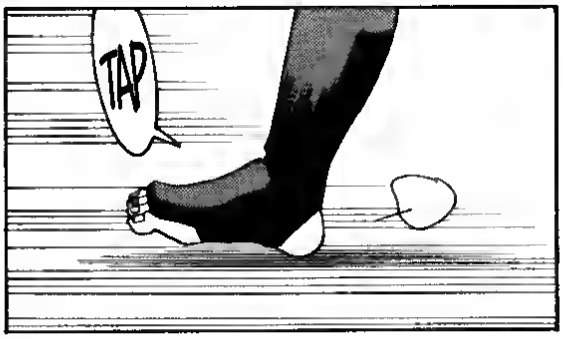
FIGHT!
Yay!
...MAYBE I CAN WIN WITH A KO!
IF I CAN GET A RIGHT IN...
HIPS DOWN! STANCE WIDE!
ANOTHER TAKE-DOWN?!
SWISH
!
HUH?

110
MOOTO
カアン
THAT GOT MEGURU PRETTY HARD...
HE FAKED A TAKEDOWN AND WENT FOR A LONG RIGHT HOOK...
お
DOWN!
SHIT...!
blink
blink
TWO!
ONE!
THREE!


...
I CAN DO IT!
REFERFE
WALK TOWARDS ME.

FOUR!
ばっ

カーン
MATCH OVER!
AWW ...
OH WELL. I GUESS THAT'S THAT...

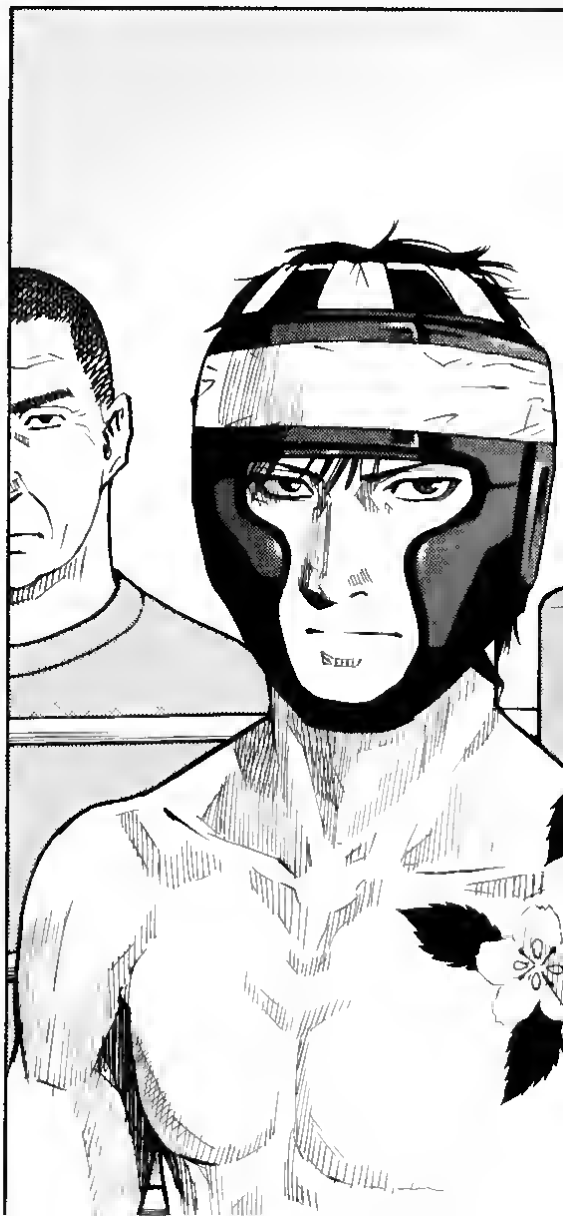

TAP

WOOSH
!
Wha?

LOOK AT THE LIGHT.
JUST REST FOR TODAY, AND TAKE A SHOWER RATHER THAN A BATH.
NO SPARRING FOR A WHILE.
AND USE A COLD COMPRESS WHEN YOU SLEEP.
ANY HEADACHE, NAUSEA, OR NUMBNESS?
YES.
YOU JUST GOT HIT ONCE?
NONE AT ALL.
...
TOO BAD, EH, MEGURU?

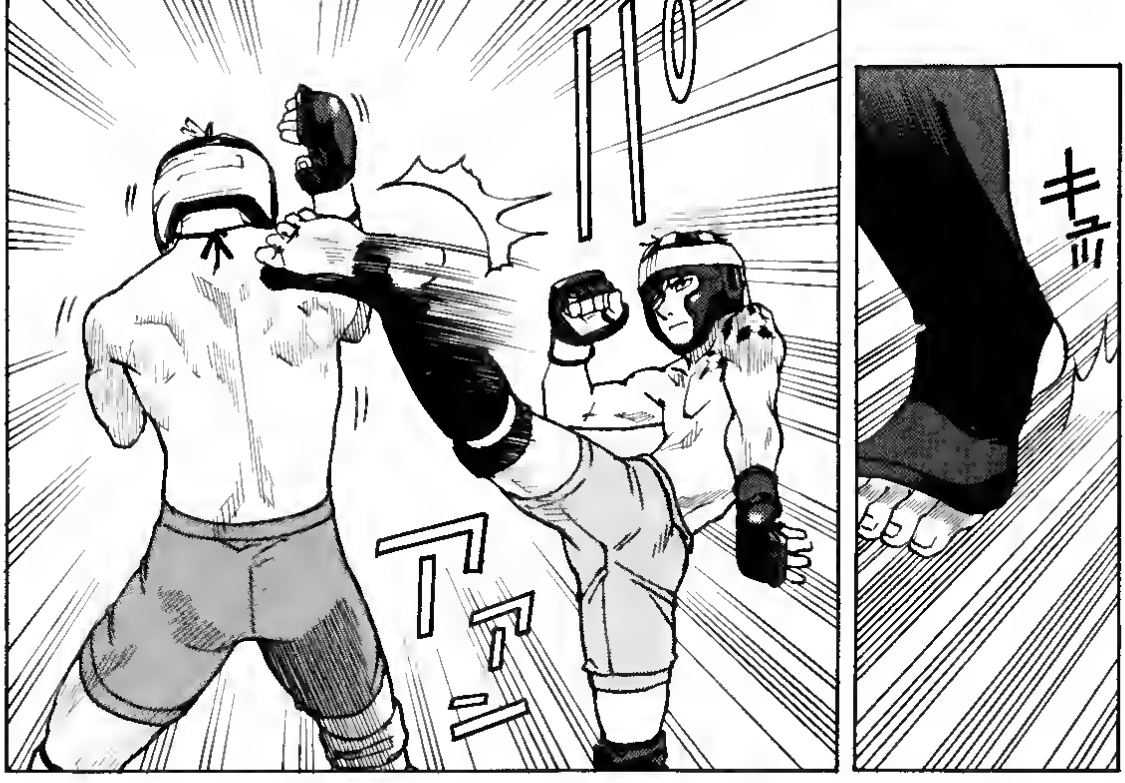
IT'S WEIRD.
I WAS NEVER ABLE TO DO IT WHEN I WAS ACTUALLY STUDYING JUDO.
GUESS WE SHOULD START CALLING THAT YOUR SPECIALTY, EH?
YOU'VE GOT A SUBMISSION WIN WITH AN ARMBAR TWICE IN A ROW NOW, KITAMURA.
DARK
...
No fighting for 120 days
Instant KO
FOR ONE THING, I'VE GOTTA GET SOME LEGLOCKS DOWN.
LIGHT
BUT I'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
Filled with confidence
Feeling fulfilled
clench
TAKASHI YAMABUKI ...
THAT'S YOUR OLD FRIEND, ISN'T IT?
HE'S UP NEXT.
MEGURU.
Heh

WHAT'S THIS YOKOYAMA GUY HE'S UP AGAINST LIKE?
APPARENTLY HE WRESTLED IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.
THIS IS HIS TENTH AMATEUR *SHOOTO* MATCH AND HE'S HAD QUITE A FEW KOS.



HE'S A VETERAN.
SUCKS FOR YAMABUKI TO BE UP AGAINST HIM IN HIS SECOND MATCH EVER.

...
THUK
First opponent
WELL, HE SURE HAD AN EASY TIME WITH HIS FIRST OPPONENT.
JUST LIKE WE PRAC-TICED!
GOT IT.
IF YOU CAN READ THE TIMING ON HIS LEFT MIDDLE, GO FOR IT.
DON'T GO FOR THE LEFT MIDDLE. KEEP HIM AT BAY WITH FRONT KICKS AND JABS.
YOU'RE BOTH SOUTH-PAWS.
OK.
FIGHT!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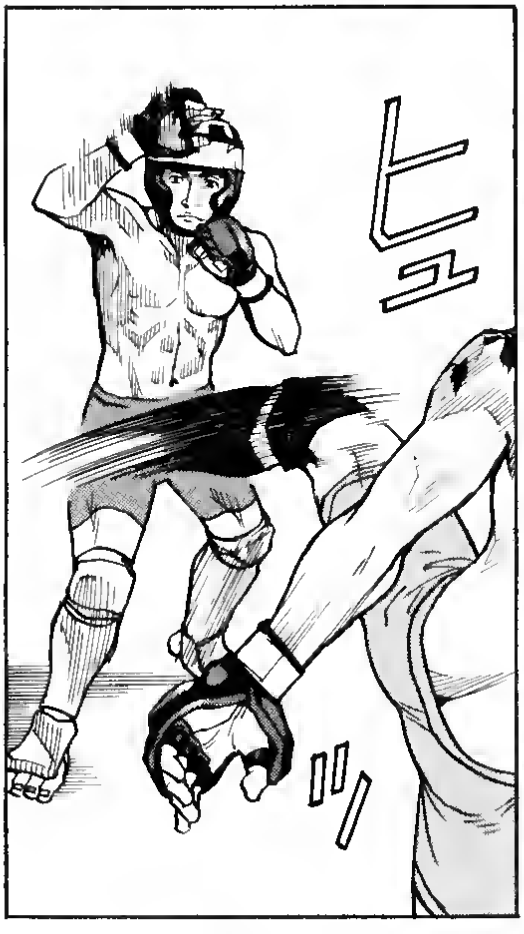
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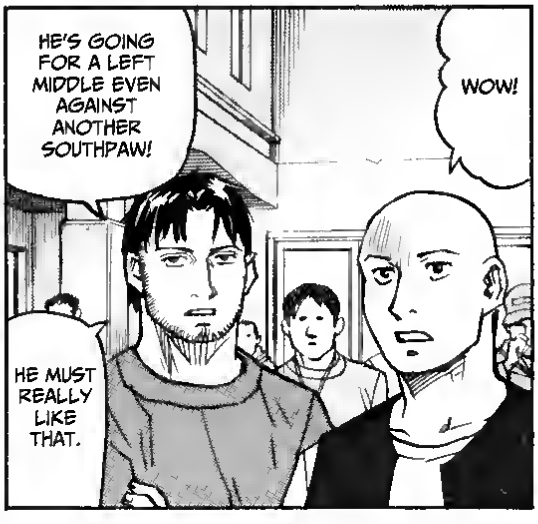
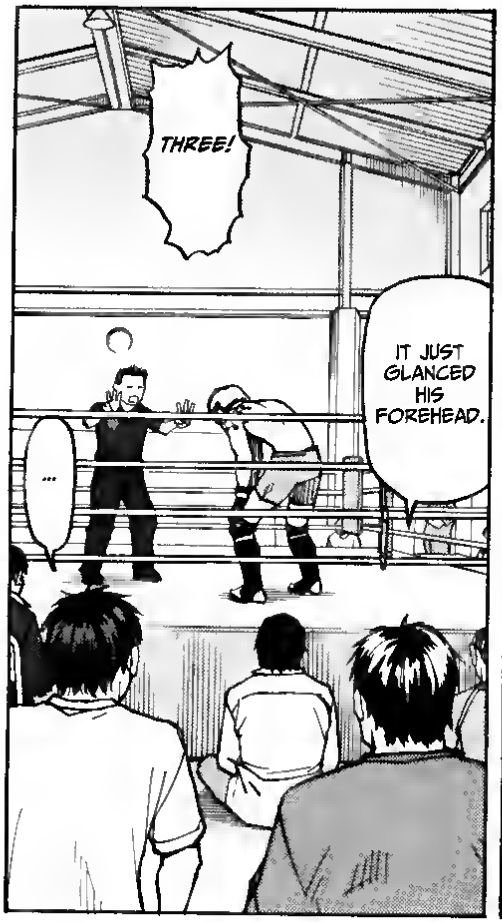
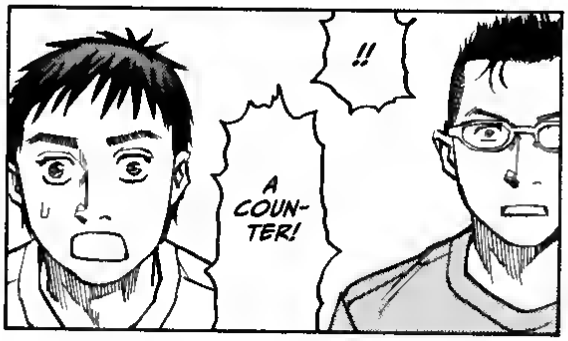

HE'S GOING FOR A LEFT MIDDLE EVEN AGAINST ANOTHER SOUTHPAW!
WOW!
HE MUST REALLY LIKE THAT.

DAMN HIM!

SHFF
...
JUST WATCH.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH USING A LEFT MIDDLE AGAINST ANOTHER SOUTHPAW?
!

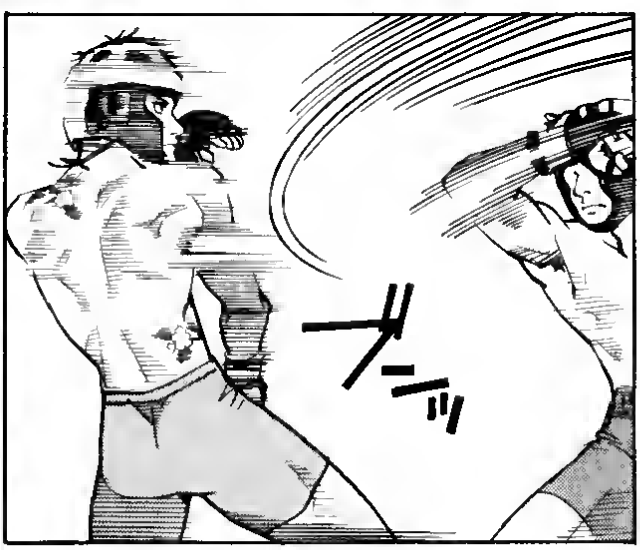

THREE!
IT JUST GLANCED HIS FOREHEAD.
...

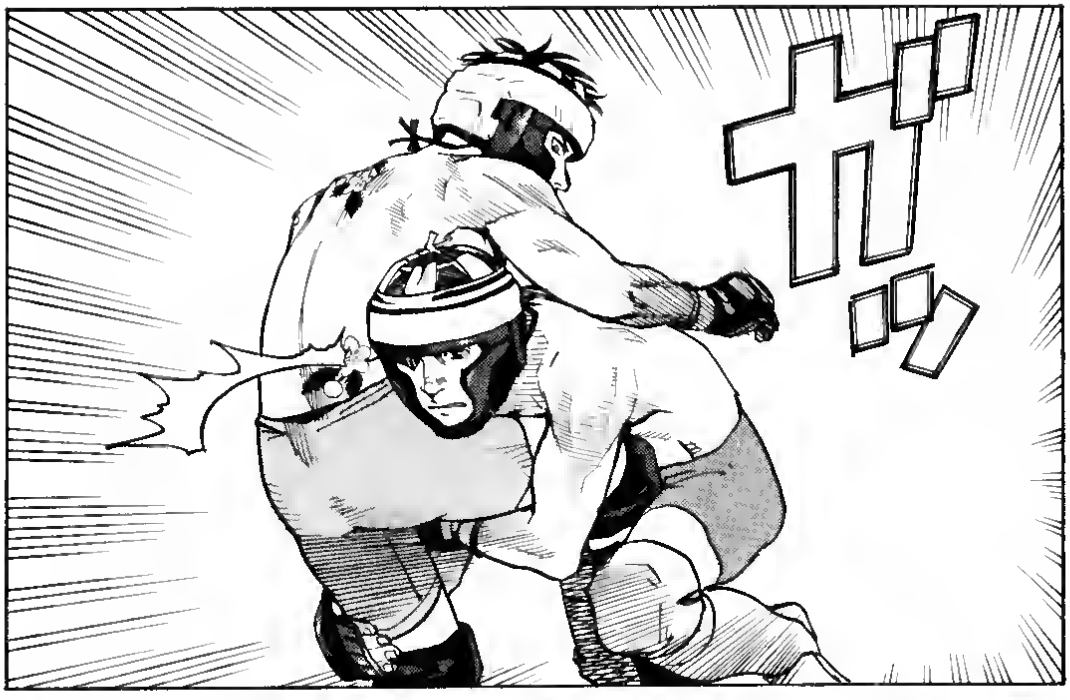

!!
A COUN-TER!

ONE!
TWO!
DOWN!

WHEN TWO LEFTIES ARE UP AGAINST EACH OTHER, IF ONE'S GOT A WRESTLER'S DASH POWER...
THIS HAPPENS A LOT...
...

WILL HE CHANGE HIS TACTICS...?
...IT MAKES IT TOUGH TO GET A LEFT MIDDLE KICK IN.
FIGHT!

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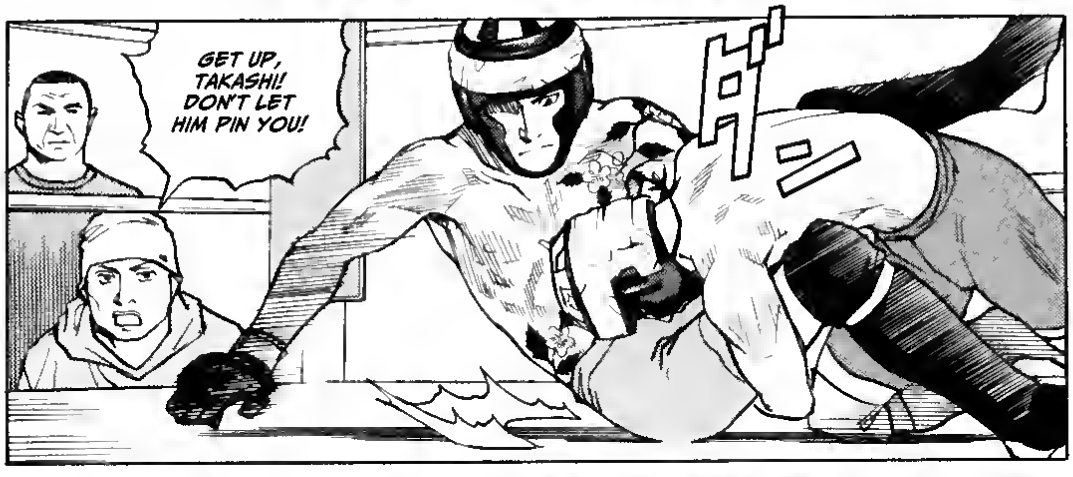
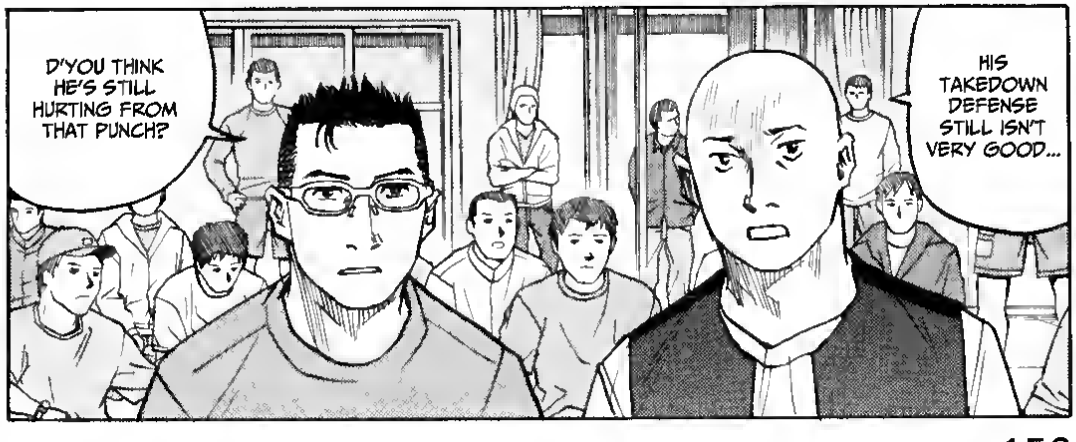
ゴン


GET UP, TAKASHI! DON'T LET HIM PIN YOU!
ドン


D'YOU THINK HE'S STILL HURTING FROM THAT PUNCH?
HIS TAKEDOWN DEFENSE STILL ISN'T VERY GOOD...

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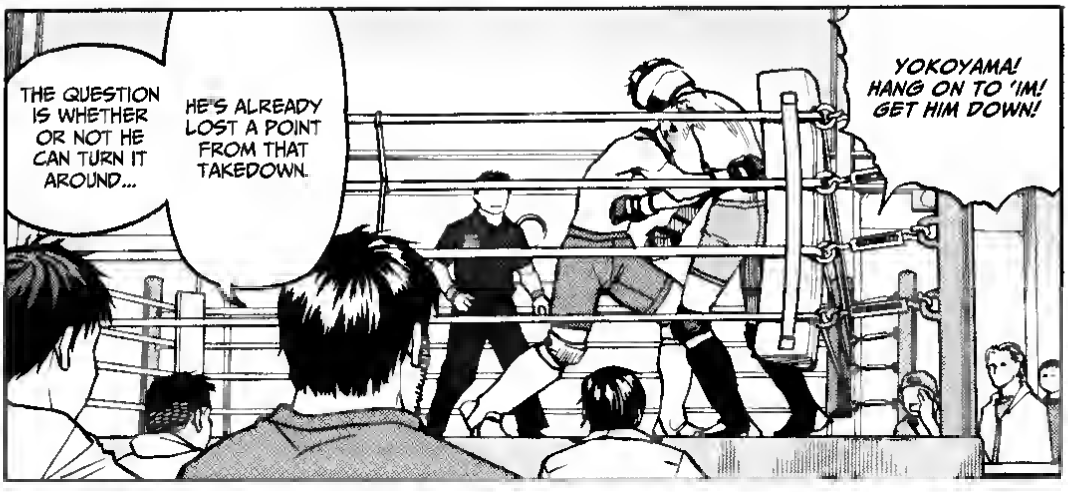
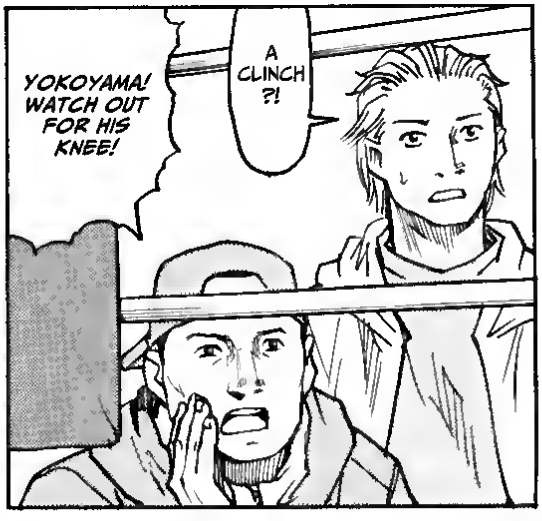
ばっ
ズズッ
HE'S GOOD WITH HIS LEGS.
HE'S NOT GONNA LET YOKOYAMA PASS THE GUARD.
THAT'S IT, TAKASHI! STAND UP!


YOKOYAMA! HANG ON TO 'IM! GET HIM DOWN!
HE'S ALREADY LOST A POINT FROM THAT TAKEDOWN.
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT HE CAN TURN IT AROUND...

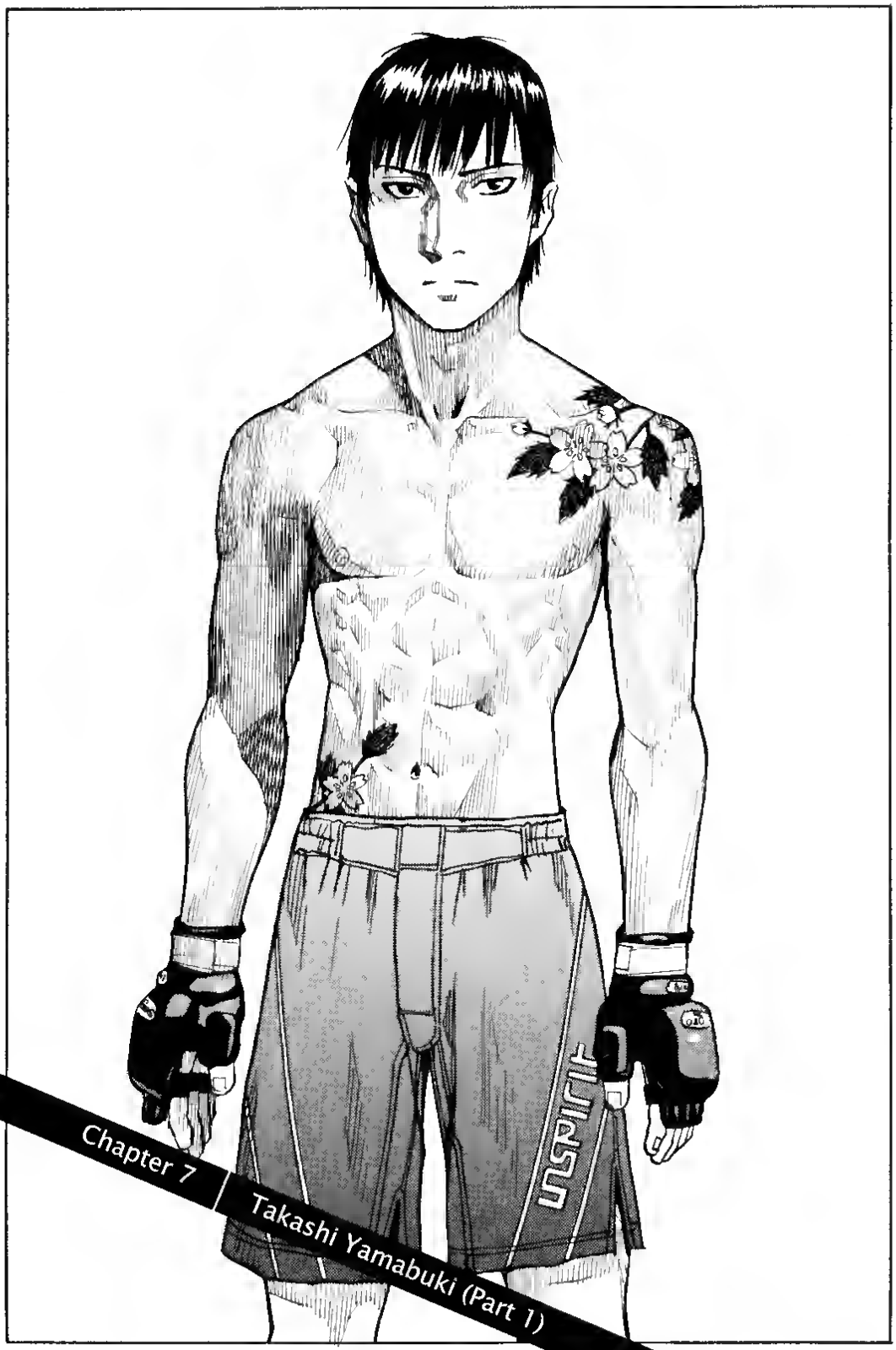
ヒュ!!
!
WOBBLE

ガッ


A CLINCH ?!
YOKOYAMA! WATCH OUT FOR HIS KNEE!

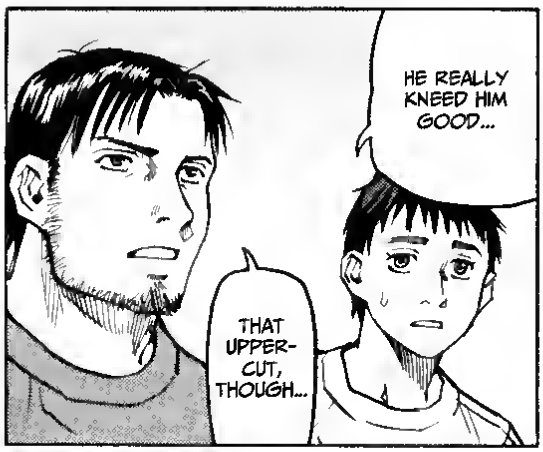
!
FOR A SECOND IT LOOKED LIKE YAMABUKI WAS FLOATING ...
WHAT WAS THAT UPPER-CUT?
I...
I CAN'T MOVE?!
キュッ!!

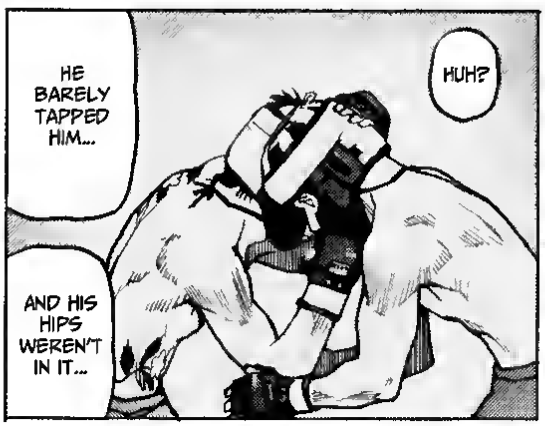
ガ
DOWN!
SLUMP



Chapter 7 | Takashi Yamabuki (Part 1)

DOWN!

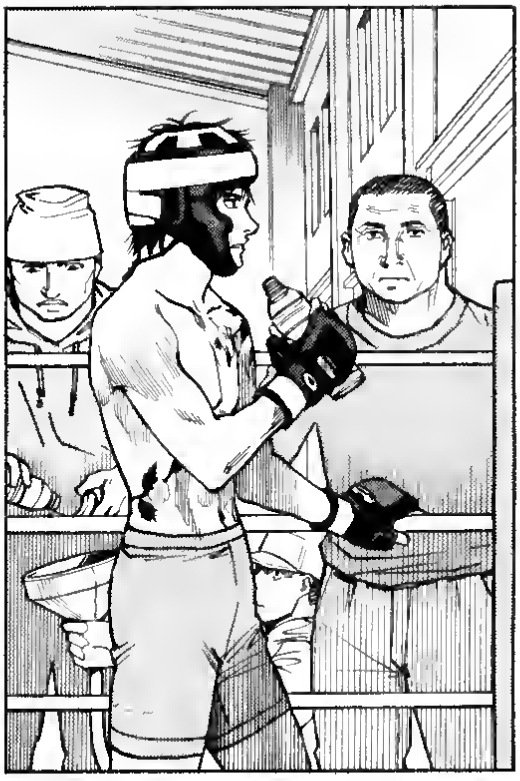

HE REALLY KNEED HIM GOOD...
THAT UPPER-CUT, THOUGH...

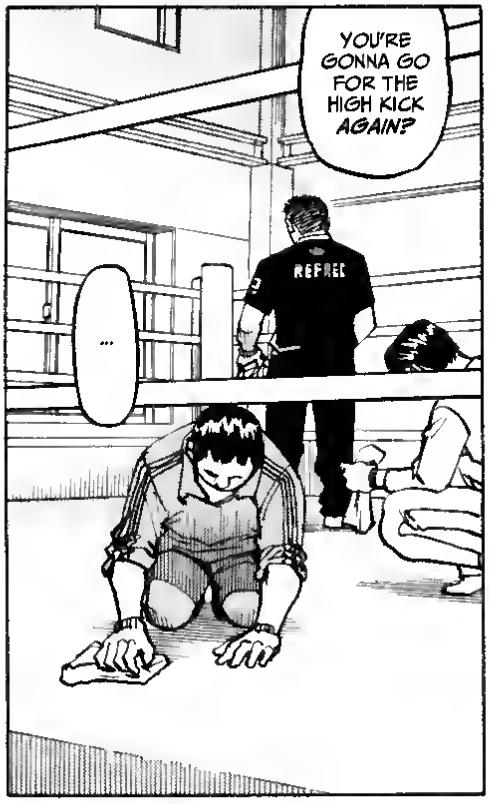

HUH?
HE BARELY TAPPED HIM...
AND HIS HIPS WEREN'T IN IT...

TWO!
ONE!

THREE!
FOUR ...!
BUT HE STOPPED HIS OPPONENT COLD.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?
ROUND ONE OVER!
ナーン
I'M SURPRISED HE WAS ABLE TO GET UP...
SAVED BY THE BELL...

I KNEW IT. HE COUNTERED YOUR LEFT MIDDLE WITH A LEFT STRAIGHT.
YOU SHOULDA GONE WITH THE JABS AND FRONT KICKS LIKE I SAID.

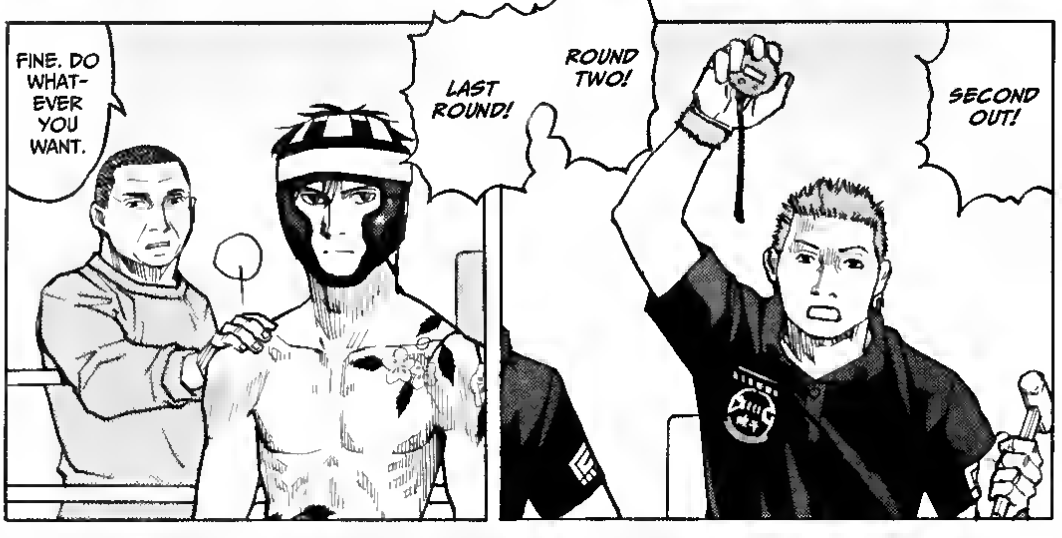


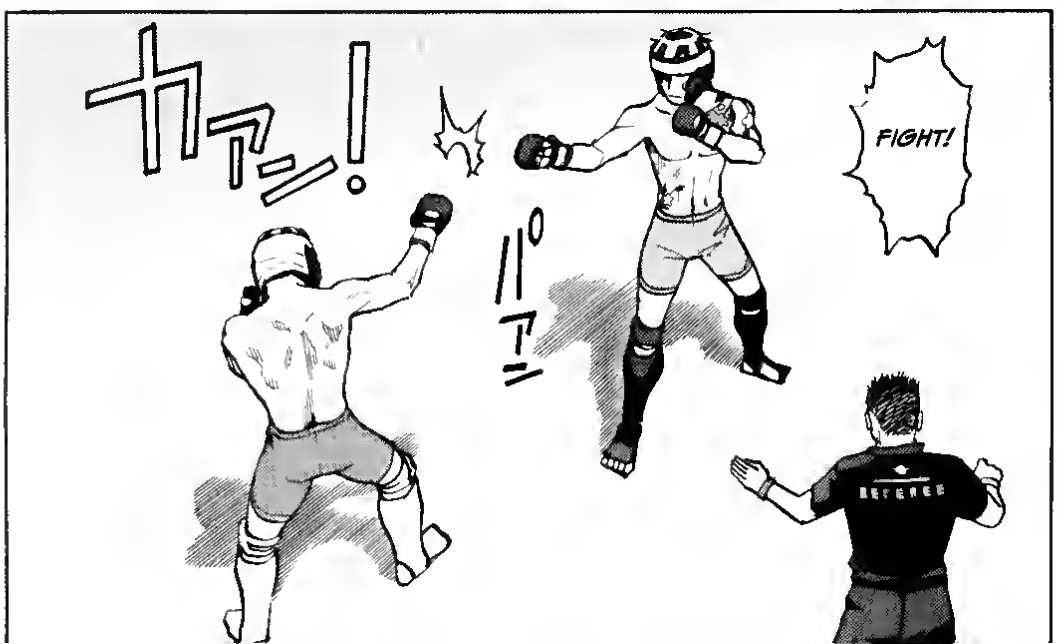

YOU'RE GONNA GO FOR THE HIGH KICK AGAIN?
REFREE
...

HE'S GOT MORE POINTS THAN ME.
I'LL HAVE TO GET A KO.

I HAVE TO BE CLOSE IF I WANT TO LAND A HIGH KICK.
THEN YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR DISTANCE...

YOKOYAMA, YOU'RE STILL AHEAD.
RIGHT.
AFTER THAT COUNTER, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN USE THAT LEFT KICK AGAIN.
JUST CONCENTRATE ON TAKING HIM DOWN.


SECOND OUT!
ROUND TWO!
LAST ROUND!
FINE. DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.


FIGHT!

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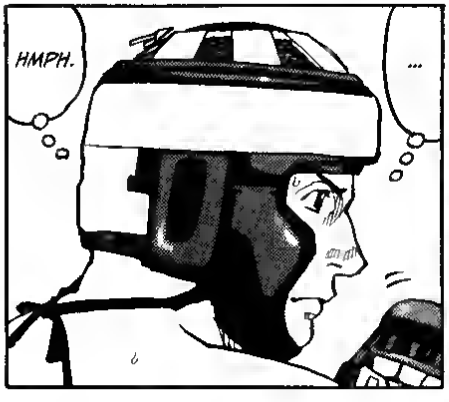
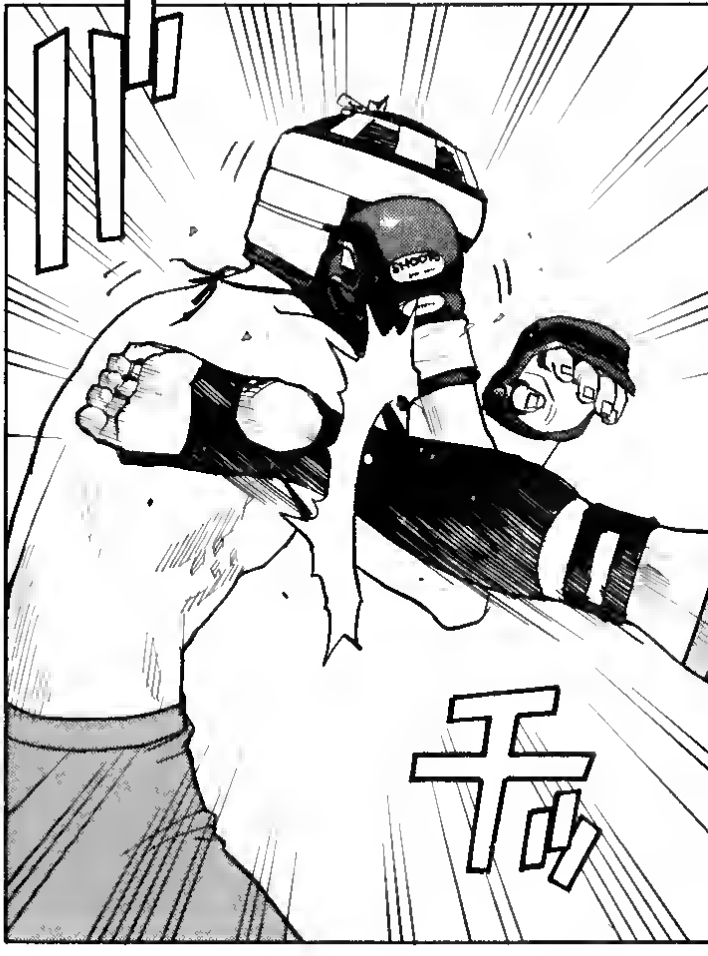
ュ

HE WENT FOR THE LEFT KICK AGAIN?!
HE'S A RIGHT-HANDED SOUTHPAW, RIGHT? HE SHOULD JUST SWITCH...

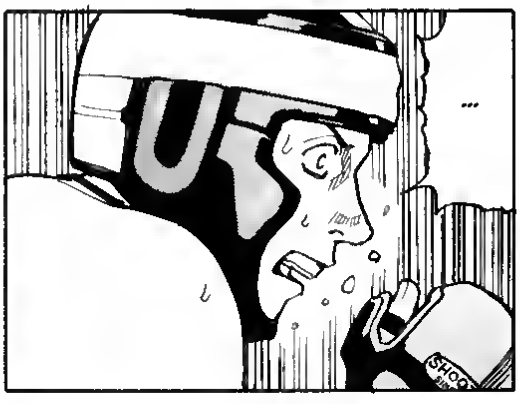

HMPH.
...

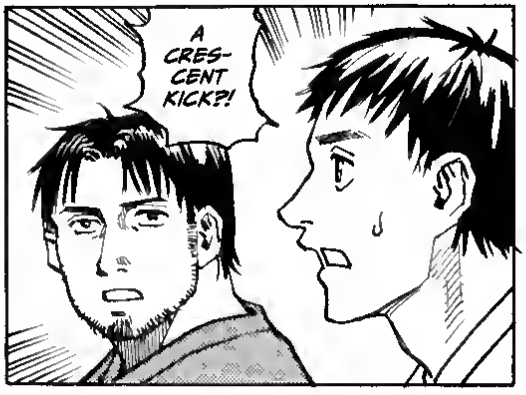

バ
SHOOM
チ

LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY DETERMINED TO USE THAT LEFT KICK.
BUT I'LL JUST COUNTER IT.
EVEN IF I CAN'T LAND A PUNCH, IF I CAN GRAB HIM, I CAN PUT HIM ON THE DEFENSIVE.
THERE IT IS, ANOTHER LEFT MIDDLE!
WELL, HE'LL GET ANOTHER TASTE OF MY LEF--

→ACK←
!

ビュ!!
WHOA!


...


A CRES-CENT KICK?!

YOKOYAMA! GET A HOLD OF HIS SIDE!
HE TRIED TO PLAY IT OFF WITH A TAKE-DOWN...
BUT THAT KICK REALLY GOT HIM.
YEAH ...
ガバ
YOKOYAMA! GET YOUR ARMS IN AND PUSH!
キュッ
THAT UPPER AGAIN?!
PULL

ガ
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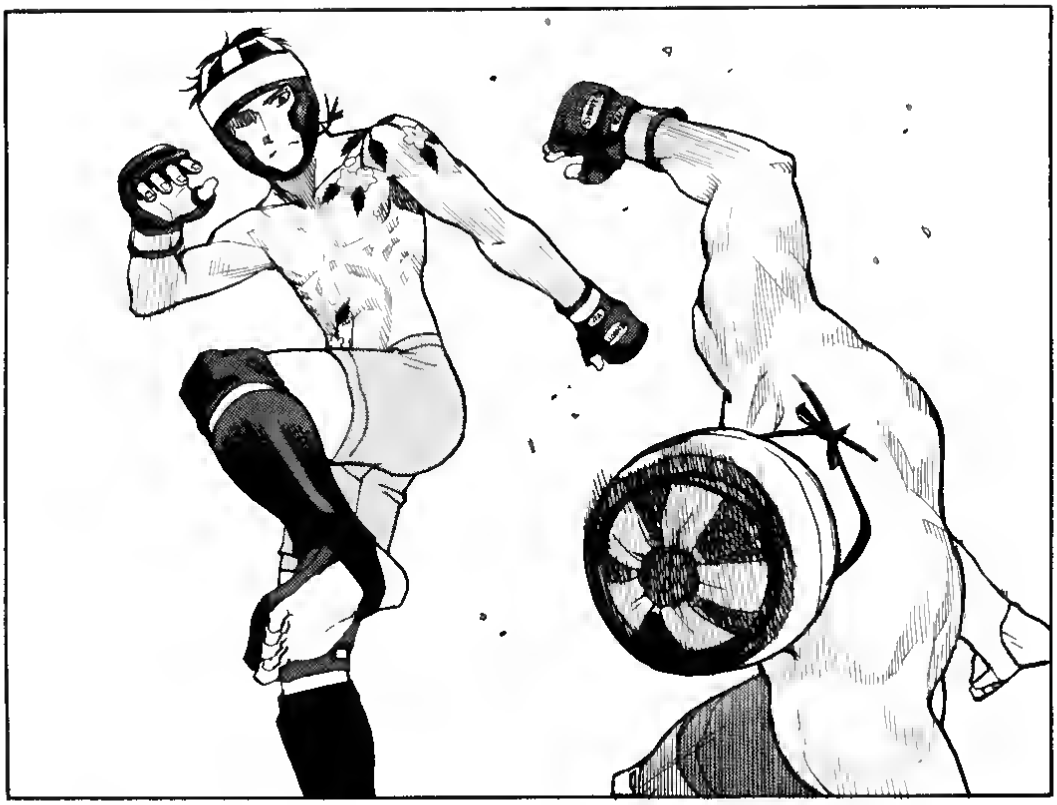
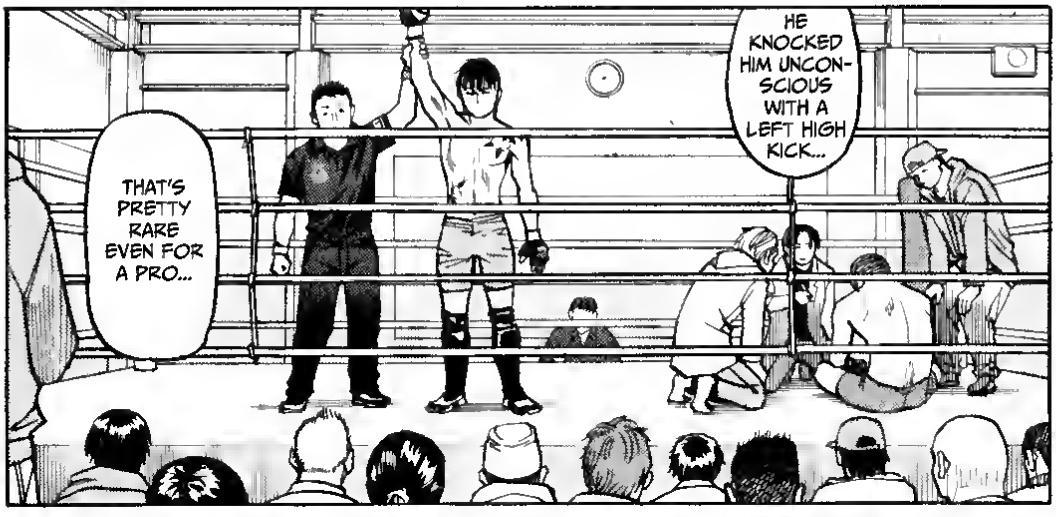


STOP!

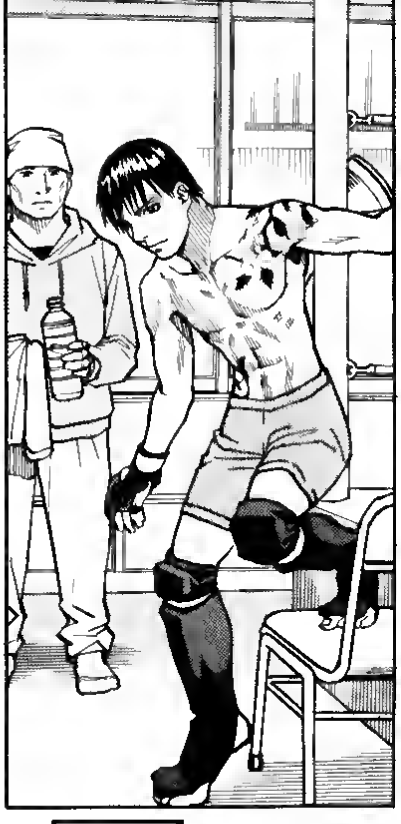
REMOVE YOUR HEADGEAR!
VRIP

MATCH OVER!
...

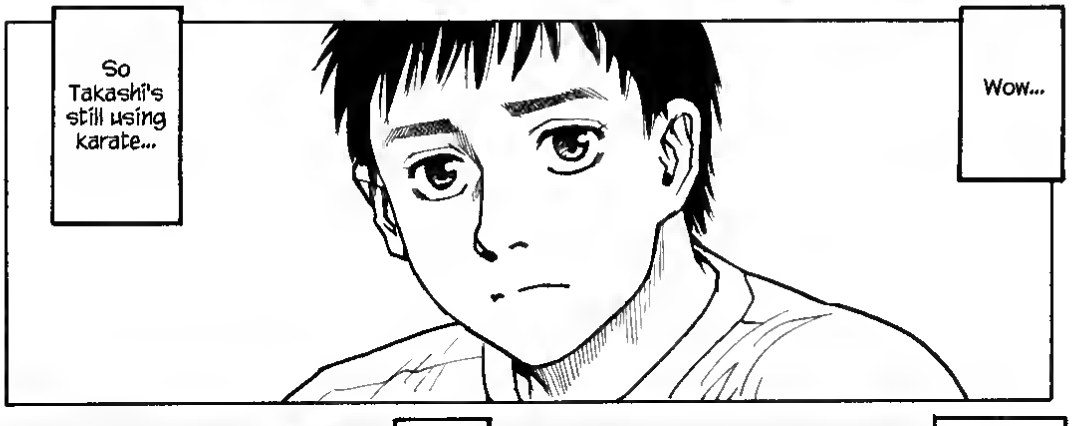

HE KNOCKED HIM UNCONSCIOUS WITH A LEFT HIGH KICK...
THAT'S PRETTY RARE EVEN FOR A PRO...

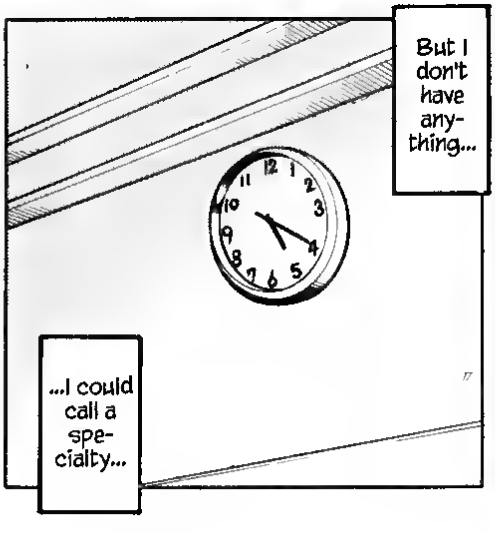
THE HIGH KICK HAS THE SAME INTERVAL AS A PUNCH.
THAT UPPER WAS A FEINT, WASN'T IT...?
HE COULD MAKE MONEY OFF THOSE KICKS...

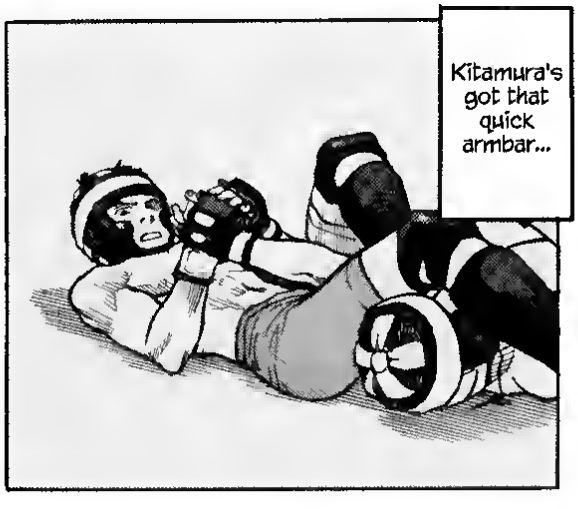
AND THE WAY HE WAS SWAYING...
...MADE IT EASIER TO LAND THE KICK.
IF HE BRINGS HIS GUARD FORWARD TO BLOCK THE UPPERCUT, THAT LEAVES HIS SIDES OPEN...
MEGU-RU,
WHAT'S THAT CRESCENT KICK YOU MENTIONED?
OH, RIGHT.
IT'S A KARATE KICK...
IT'S RIGHT BETWEEN A MIDDLE AND A FRONT KICK.
...
HMM ...
SO THAT EXPLAINS THE CRES-CENT KICK...
IF YOU DO IT ON THE LEFT, YOU CAN GET YOUR OPPO-NENT RIGHT IN THE LIVER.
AND IT'LL STOP THEM COLD.



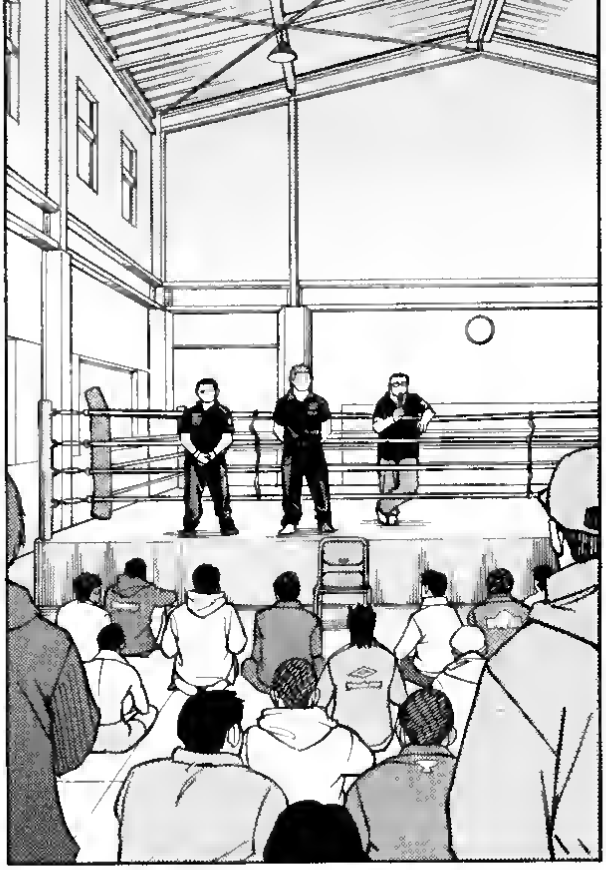
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT UPPERCUT?

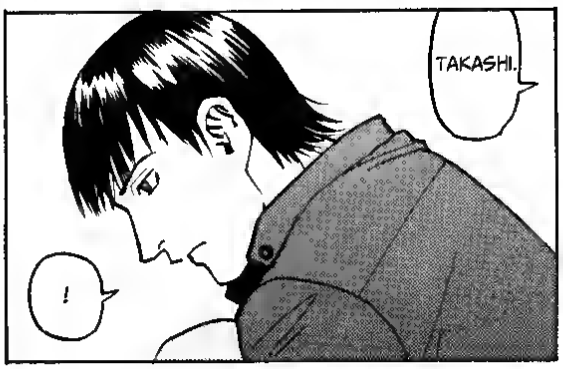

So Takashi's still using karate...
Wow...

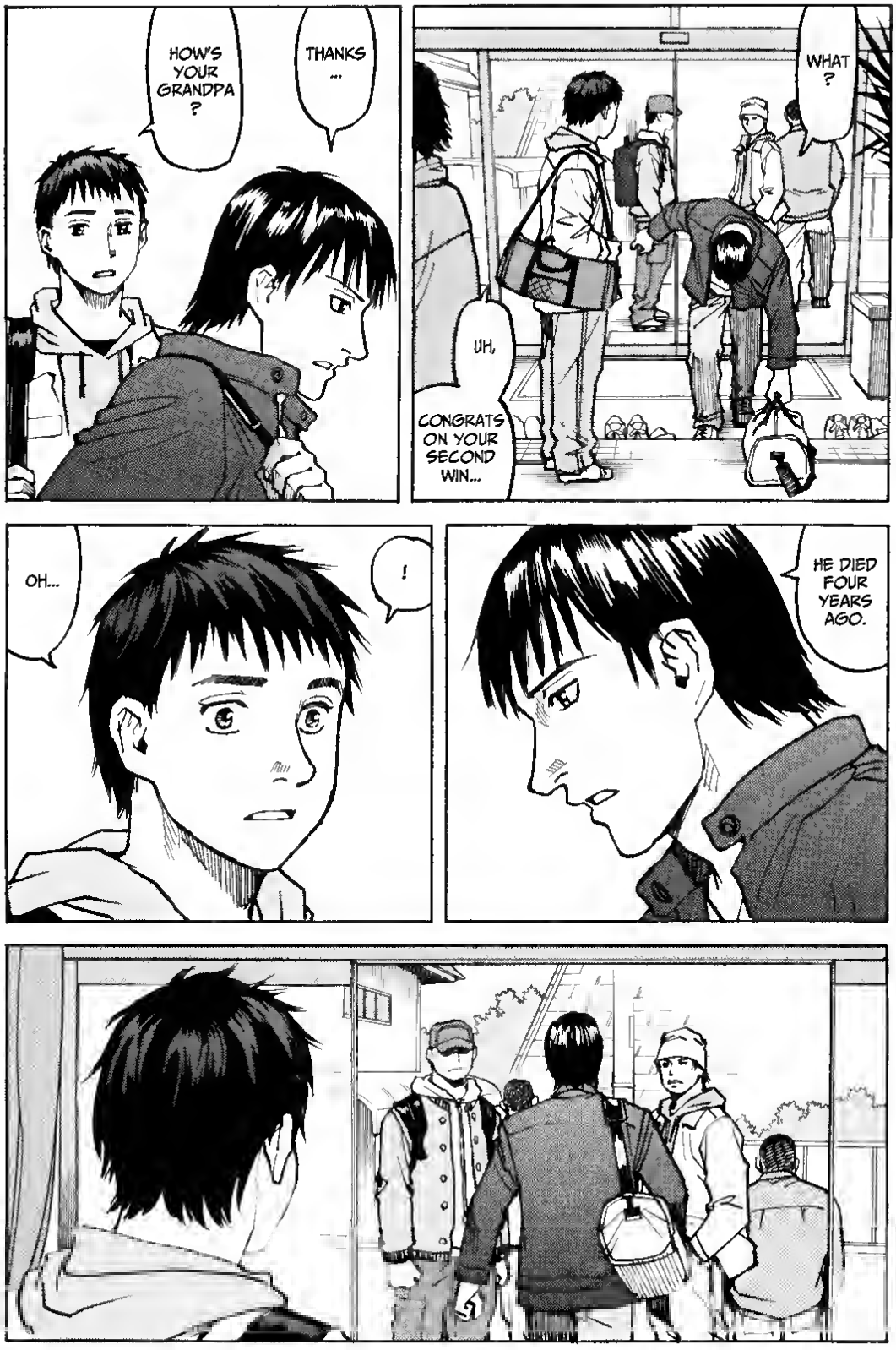

But I don't have anything...
...I could call a specialty...


Kitamura's got that quick armbar...

GOOD-BYE.
BYE.




TAKASHI.
!


THANKS ...
HOW'S YOUR GRANDPA ?
WHAT ?
UH, CONGRATS ON YOUR SECOND WIN...
OH...
!
HE DIED FOUR YEARS AGO.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
...
WHAT, DID HE GIVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER?
DID HE DUMP YOU?
...
SOUNDS GOOD.
OK, YOU GUYS WANT TO STOP FOR RAMEN ON THE WAY BACK?
OUT

!
SORRY, MR. TSUKISADA... I'VE GOTTA GO.
OH...
ALL RIGHT.

GUESS IT'S TRUE HE'S GOT FAMILY IN THE YAKUZA.
WOW.
HIS UNCLE'S.
WHOSE CAR IS THAT...?

DID YOU HAVE FUN...
...WITH YOUR LITTLE GAME...?
I WON,
UNCLE...
HAHAHA ...
AH... TO BE YOUNG AGAIN...

Chapter 8 | Takashi Yamabuki (Part 2)

...SUDDENLY DECIDING TO QUIT SCHOOL AND SUPPORT HIMSELF.
MY FAVORITE NEPHEW...
I WORRY ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?

WITH THAT... WHAT'S IT CALLED? SHOO... SOMETHING.
BUT YOU SEEM TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT.
...

ARE THERE PROS?
HMM...

IT'S A TYPE OF MARTIAL ARTS.
SHOO-TO.

...
ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND MAKE A LIVING WITH THAT?
YES.
I WAS ONLY A FEATHER-WEIGHT...
NO, SIR...
WERE YOU ABLE TO SUPPORT YOURSELF WHEN YOU WERE A BOXER?
SIR?
SAM-YONG.
THERE WAS A GUY AT MY GYM WHO WON THE JAPANESE BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE...
...AND HE STILL WORKED AT A SUPERMARKET DURING THE DAY.
...AND THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY MAKE IT BIG ARE THE HEAVYWEIGHTS DUKING IT OUT IN LAS VEGAS.

...
WHY DON'T YOU COME WORK FOR ME?
HEAR THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
NO WAY.
MY, MY.
THAT IDIOT?
STUPID THOUGH HE IS, MY SON MEANS...
...TO GO TO UNI-VERSITY.
YOU HAVE TOMOHIKO ANYWAY.
SKREE

TAKA-SHI,
YOU SHOULD COME BY THE HOUSE ONCE IN A WHILE.
ガチャ
I DON'T KNOW...
HE'S WITH A DIFFER-ENT FAMILY.
...WHEN HE'S GETTING OUT OF PRISON?
DO YOU KNOW...

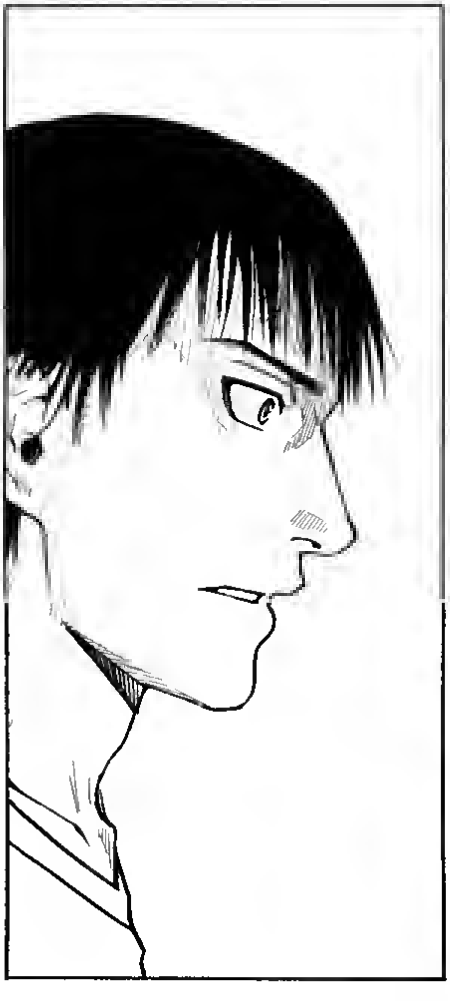
ガチャ
ガチャ

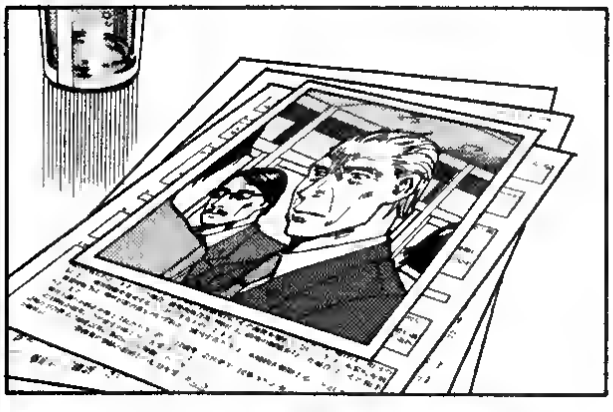
ドサッ

Oh, hello.
I'm with Niimi Detective Agency...
About the search...
HELLO?
YAMABUKI HERE.
YES...
I SEE.
YES.
WHAT?
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?

FIRST LIEUTENANT OF THE INAGAKI FAMILY, WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE KANTO OTORI SHINKAI.
TOSHIO YAMAGUCHI.
HE WAS ARRESTED FOUR YEARS AGO...
...AND CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING, COERCION, KIDNAPPING, AND INSTIGATING VIOLENCE...
BUT... THREE MONTHS AGO...
...HE WAS STABBED FROM BEHIND BY A FELLOW INMATE...

AND HE DIED...
...OF BLOOD LOSS.





THREE MONTHS AGO?
YES.
THAT'S RIGHT.

STOP!
W-WAIT, TAKASHI!
SIGN: KYS GROUP
KYS グループ
SORRY, I TRIED TO STOP HIM...
WHAT IS IT, TAKASHI?
!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...
...TOSHIO YAMAGUCHI WAS KILLED?
WHO KILLED HIM? ON WHOSE ORDERS?
I COULDN'T TELL YOU EVEN IF I DID KNOW.
...
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF I HAD?
SO, WHAT?
WERE YOU REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT KILLING HIM?

OR ARE YOU REALLY...
...AS STUPID AS YOUR FATHER?
YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE CONSE-QUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WOULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
!
WAH!

ヌッ
!
ヒュッ
ドン
!!

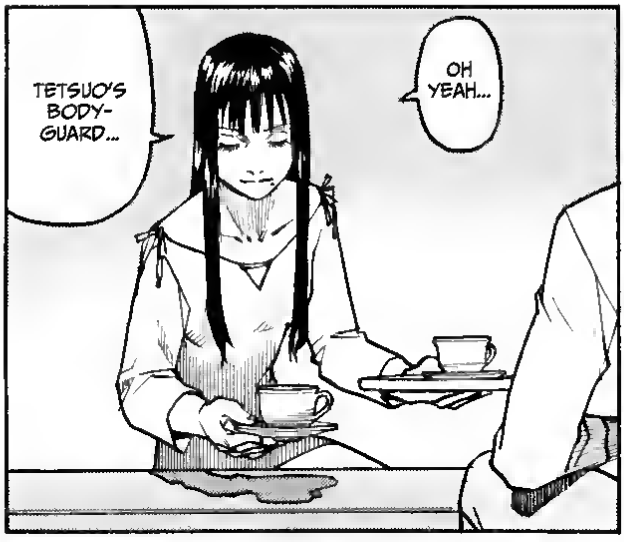
ゴ
パン
キュッ
WELL.
バン
ズルル

OOH ...
...SO STRONG AFTER ALL.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT...

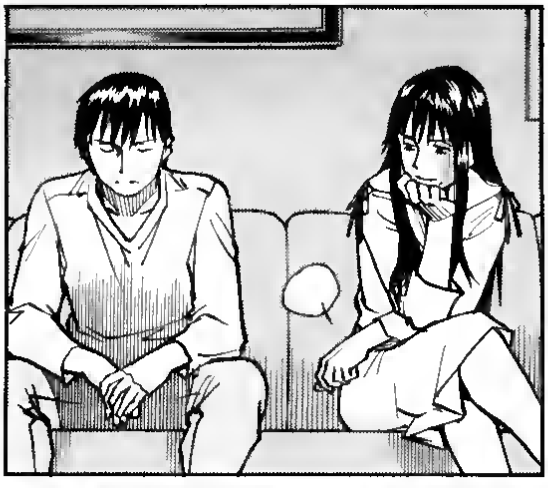
SKREE
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK

!
BEEP
PUSH
LOOK AT YOU STANDING THERE...
COME ON IN.
...LIKE AN ABAN-DONED PUPPY.

I KNOW YOUR SCHEDULE PRETTY WELL, MIYUKI.
...
TAKA-SHI,
WOULD YOU HAVE STOOD THERE...
...ALL NIGHT IF I HADN'T COME HOME?
DING
IS THAT FROM A MATCH?
OR SOME-THING ELSE?
YOUR FACE...


TETSUO'S BODY-GUARD...
OH YEAH...

SAM-YONG CHO.



DOES THAT MAKE YOU MAD?
AND?

TOSHIO YAMAGUCHI DIED.

I...
...HAD PLANNED ...
...TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD...
...ONCE I AVENGED MY FATHER.

AND NOW...
...YOU CAN'T DISAPPEAR.